

**WRESTLEMANIA XI PREVIEW SPECIAL!**

INSIDE WRESTLING

**Inside**

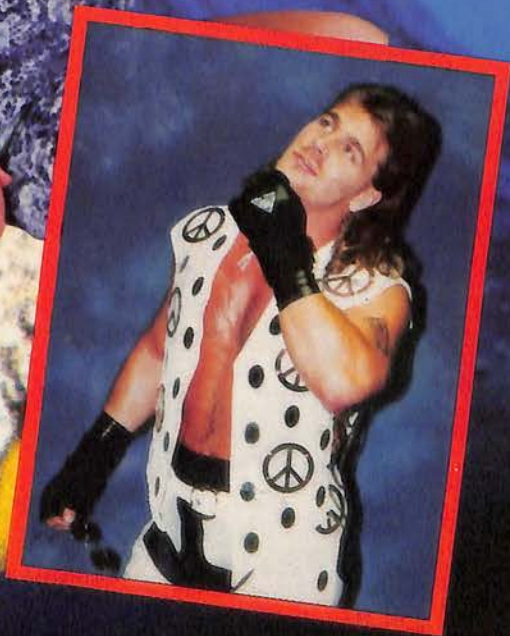
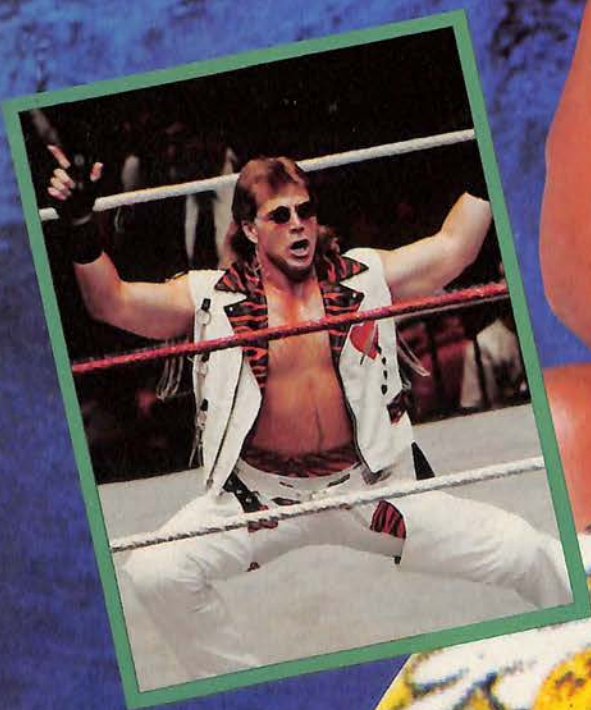
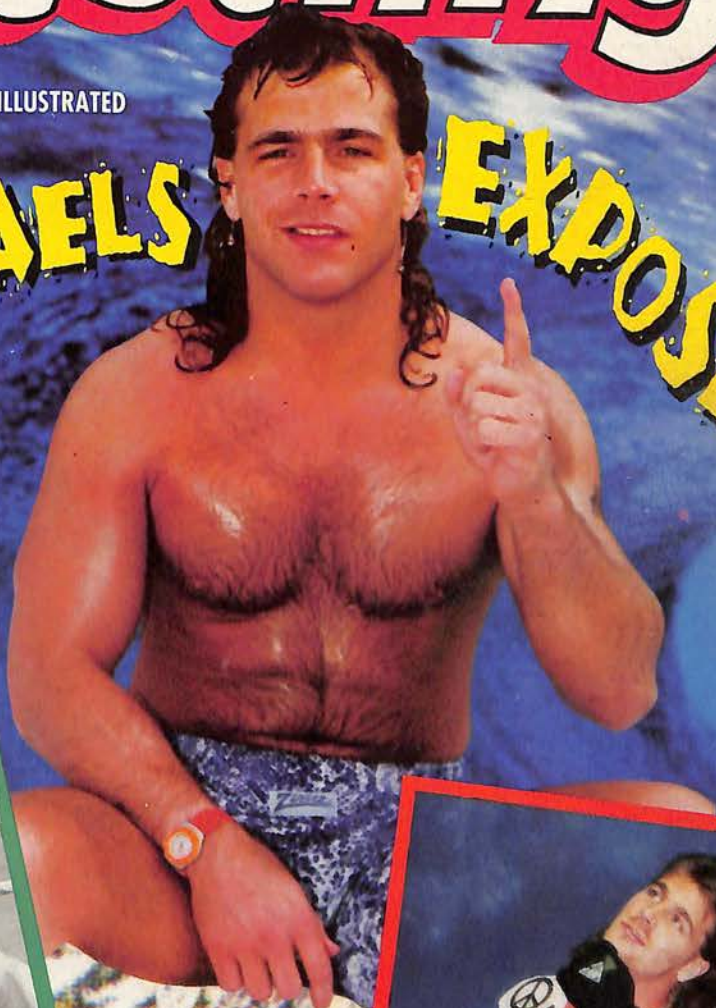
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**MAY 1995**

# **Wrestling**

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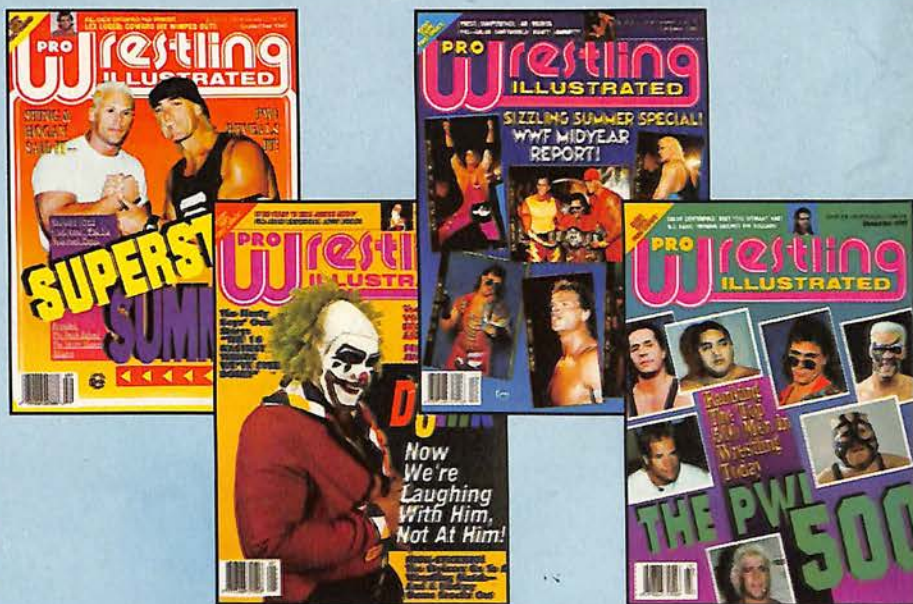
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# Inside Wrestling®

THE MAGAZINE THAT RIPS  
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STANLEY WESTON

Founder

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# Sincerely Yours

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## STING vs. THE MEDIA

I agree with Sting's point all the way ("The Media Is Ruining My Career!", February 1995). The media people are getting out of hand with their lambasting of him. I think that Sting is a great wrestler with a lot of charisma. Sting is at the peak of his career and I think that if the media watch with their mouths closed, he will be WCW World champion by 1996!

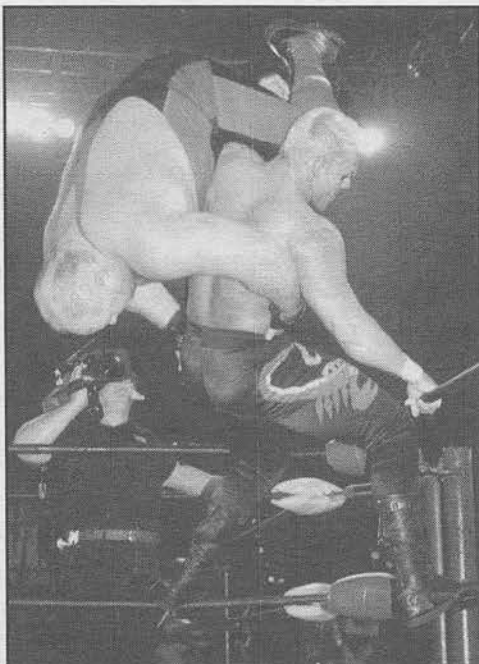
It takes time to win championships, and I feel that Sting has the ability and drive to do it again. So, my message to the media is to watch and learn. And to Sting, keep up the good work!

**SHARMAN TEAGUE**  
Waterloo, IA

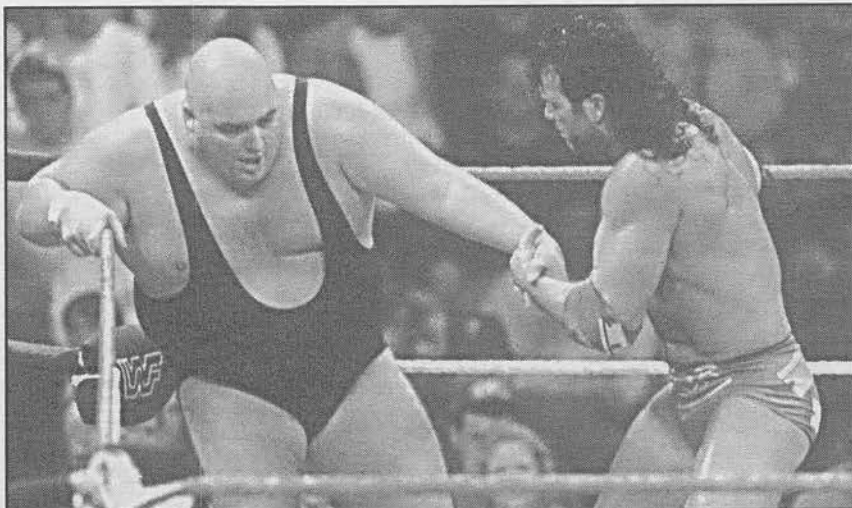
## THE RICHEST TED

Make way for the "Billion-Dollar Man." His first name is Ted, but his last name isn't DiBiase, it's Turner. Everything old is new again, and all of this was made possible by tycoon Ted Turner. Of course, the quality of WCW wrestling has decreased somewhat, but anything is better than the WWF (Worst Wrestling Federation). WCW should now ride its wave of success into the future by gobbling up all of the future stars, like Sabu, 911, etc.

The stars of the old WWF will have tremendous impact upon



Sting is right when he says people in the media are ruining his career, says reader Sharmen Teague, who predicts that the "Stinger" will win another WCW World title by 1996.



Razor Ramon afraid of the WWF World title? Nonsense, says reader Melissa Elsen! She thinks the "Bad Guy" has enjoyed being Intercontinental champ and shouldn't be pressured to make a run at the World belt.

WCW's rising popularity, and, I hope, Hulk Hogan will find a suitable megastar to take his place so he can finally retire.

**BRYAN BERSON**  
**LAUREN BERSON**  
West Islip, NY

## NO FEAR

Razor Ramon is not afraid of anything ("Not Macho Enough? Why Razor Ramon Is Afraid Of The World Title," March 1995). Razor Ramon is a two-time Intercontinental champion, and he takes on all challengers, unlike some champions in the sport today. He has the size, strength, and machismo to be a champion for a long time. What more could you want from the guy?

Ramon is satisfied right now with his belt and his role as I-C champion. He is just having fun with his reign. He is at the pinnacle of his career, and he is dominating everyone who challenges his macho lifestyle.

Ramon may eventually change his mind and embark on a quest for the WWF World belt. But until then, he deserves to enjoy his reign any way he wants. I am sure that he will continue to be successful.

**MELISSA ELSSEN**  
Jacksonville, FL



## OUR CRYSTAL BALL

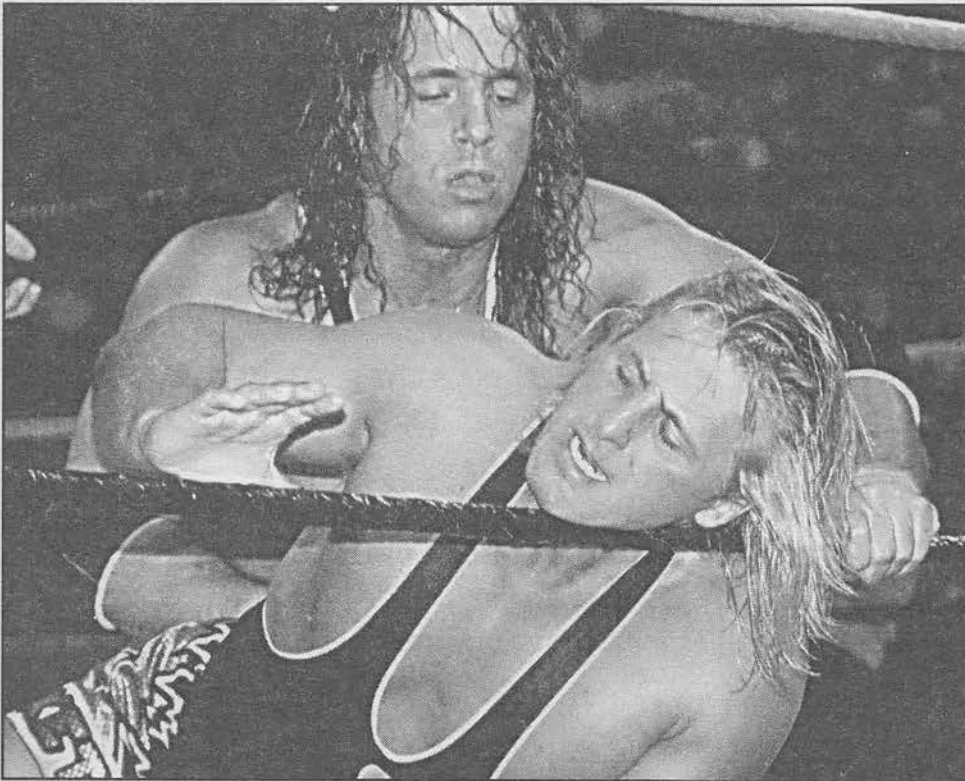
I just read your predictions for the coming year ("Wrestling's Top Stars: What 1995 Has In Store For Them," March 1995.) Your prediction for Bob Backlund will

## IT NEVER ENDS!

I can't believe that Owen and Bret are still battling each other. When will these two ever learn that your family is the most important part of your life, and your sib-

feud is doing to your other sisters and brothers and, especially, your parents. What you are doing to each other is hurting all of them!

HELEN KELLMAN  
Topeka, KS



The family feud between Bret and Owen Hart is continuing, and reader Helen Kellman doesn't like it. She wishes they would end their feud for the sake of their parents.

probably come true, except for one little thing. It was written that Backlund would "return to the only place where he is appreciated: Japan." Well, the truth is that we don't want him, either.

Who in his right mind would think that my country would want your maniacal, deranged ex-champion? Backlund's crazy. I think that he'd be better off on an island by himself somewhere in the Pacific or even in the Arctic. Please, we won't take him here. Backlund will either have to be shipped somewhere else or, better yet, put to sleep.

AKIRA ICHONO  
Tokyo

lings are the ones who can help you make it through the rest of your life? Even when you are in your darkest moment, your siblings should always be there for you. Siblings have a special bond that should not be forsaken. When you lose your brother or sister, you lose a part of your heritage and yourself.

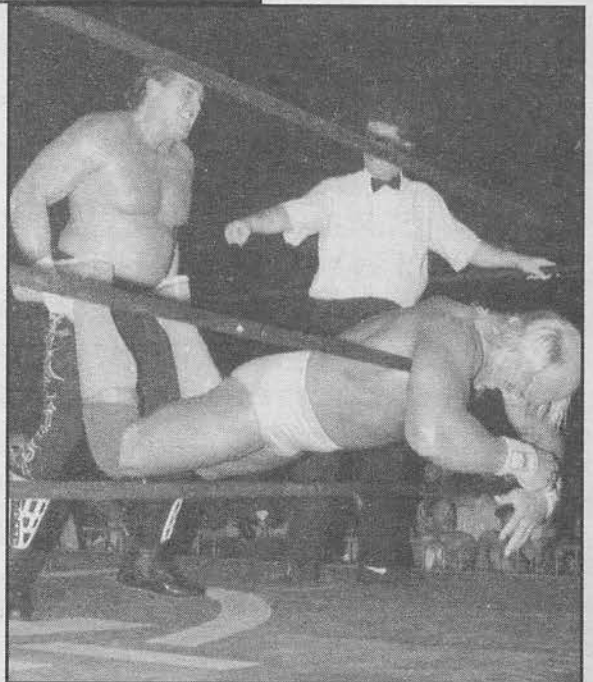
Owen and Bret, please stop your fighting and reconcile while you still can. Think of what your

## CHICKEN A LA HULK

Just as Brutus stabbed Caesar in the back, so, too, did Brutus Beefcake betray WCW World champion Hulk Hogan, joining Avalanche and Kevin Sullivan ("Exclusive Photos! Why Brutus 'The Butcher' Drove His Knife Into Hogan's Back!" February 1995). Who's right? Who's wrong? *Who cares!*

Now, we'll have to sit through months of Hogan and his new lackeys, Sting and Dave Sullivan vs. The Butcher, The Baker, and The Kendo Stick Maker in meaningless six-man

*(Continued on page 56)*



Seeing Brutus Beefcake get a shot at the WCW World title at Starrcade was appalling to reader Harry Simon. He doesn't like the fact that Hulk Hogan has been able to duck men he calls "worthy opponents."



# REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

One question I am constantly asked is this: Are rulebreakers as mean away from a wrestling setting as they are when we see them on TV?

I hate to generalize, but for the sake of answering this question, here are a list of characteristics that apply to wrestling's baddest men:

They cheat Uncle Sam at tax time

They double-bag in the grocery store (they also can be found on the "10 items or less" line with at least 15 items)

They pull the tags off their mattresses

They take money out of the collection plate in church

They make long-distance calls and then call the operator and insist they dialed the wrong number

They pay for the cheap seats and move down to field level during ballgames

They mark playing cards

They take warmup frames while bowling until they get a strike, then count that strike as their first frame

They sneak into the movie theater by walking backward through the crowd into it while everybody else is walking out

They watch public TV, but never pledge

They order their 10 CDs for a penny, but never fulfill their membership obligation

They make left turns from the right lane (and vice versa)

They park in handicapped spaces

They ask for free samples of all the flavors at Baskin-Robbins, then never buy anything

They drive with their brights on

They complain about not being on our magazine covers, but don't make themselves available for photo sessions.

\*\*\*

Stu Saks' WrestleMania XI forecast: Diesel pins Michaels.



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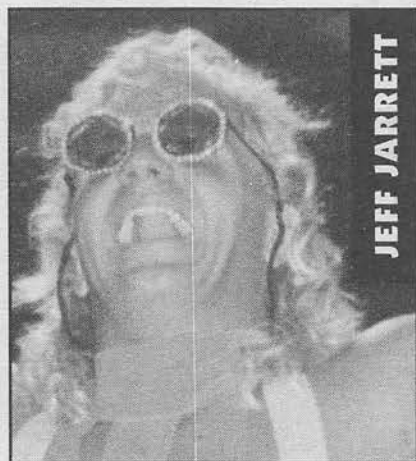
# NAMES MA

**A**S THIS ISSUE of INSIDE WRESTLING went to press, **Rick and Scott Steiner** still had a WCW contract in front of them. "There's a lot of fine print that we have to iron out," said Scott, "but we're real anxious to get back into action here in the good ol' U.S.A." The brothers have been competing in Japan since leaving the WWF in early-1994.

Speaking of tag teams, **Bob "Spark Plugg" Holly and The Kid** only held the WWF World tag team belts for one night. They won the vacant title by beating **Bam Bam Bigelow and Tatanka** at the Royal Rumble, then lost the belts the next night to **The Smokin' Gunns**. "No excuses," said Kid. "But we were tired out from winning the belts. The Gunns got us when we were vulnerable."

After a lengthy hiatus, **Marty Jannetty** has returned. He is competing for the new World Class Wrestling Federation in Texas. Jannetty tells us that he is in training to meet heavyweight champion **Mr. Wrestling III ... Kevin Von Erich**, who has been wrestling in the Texas branch of

the NWA, was recently attacked by his manager, **Gen. Skandor Akbar**. "I don't know why I trusted him," Von Erich lamented. "Akbar has always been untrustworthy. I must have been crazy to let him manage me, but he swore that he had changed his ways."

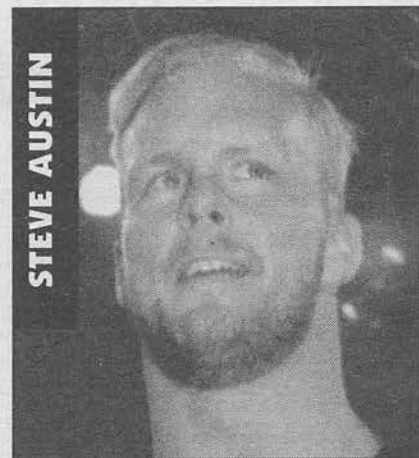


JEFF JARRETT

**Jeff Jarrett** still isn't happy, even though he has the Intercontinental belt! Jarrett told everyone on a televised interview in January, "I want the WWF heavyweight title, so I am declaring myself the top contender for **Diesel's** belt" ... **Steve Austin's** doctors have informed him that he may be able to return to action by summer. Austin, you'll recall, tore ligaments in his left knee in a match against **Hacksaw Duggan** this fall ... Due to injuries, **Dallas Kramer**, the Heartland Wrestling Federation's junior heavyweight champion, has vacated the title. The promotion has opted to eliminate the Mid-Northern U.S. title and give that champion, **The Shadow Runner**, Kramer's belt. And you thought **Jack Tunney** made weird decisions!

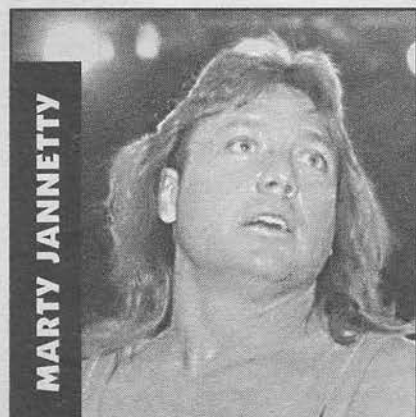
**Eddie Gilbert** has canceled all of his Smoky Mountain Wrestling commitments and is wrestling in Puerto Rico, for the World Wrestling Council, instead. "When I realized what a hunk of garbage '**Dirty White Boy**' **Tony Anthony's** title is, I decided I didn't want to bother with it," he said. Anthony is telling another story. He claims Gilbert is terrified of wrestling him, and took the coward's way out ... Motor City Wrestling Commissioner **Terry Moore** sent us a press release stating that he has rescinded all suspensions that were in place during the 1994 calendar year. This opens the door for **Sabu, Killer Kanareck, Judge Dredd**, and manager **The Gypsy** to return.

Since **Mad Dog O'Malley** beat Mid-Eastern Wrestling Federation heavyweight champion **Morgus**



STEVE AUSTIN

**the Maniac** in a non-title match, Morgus has refused to sign a contract for a rematch ... **Ian Rotten** has befriended **Mr. Hughes** and hopes Hughes will aid him in his family feud with his brother, **Axl** ... **Chad Austin** is wrestling **The**



MARTY JANNETTY

# KIN' NEWS

*By Bill Apter*

**Comet** in a series of ladder matches ... Pro Wrestling Federation rookie **Greg Hart** is looking good. No, he's not related to **Bret** or **Owen**. Greg has already won six battle royals in the PWF. "I think the kid has a bright future," reports PWF heavyweight champion **Italian Stallion**.

WCW World champion **Hulk Hogan** told **Randy Savage** that he's not interested in going after the WCW World tag team title, which was held at press time by **Harlem Heat**. Hogan tells me that he is just too busy to accept any new commitments at this time. Savage has reportedly asked **Hacksaw Duggan** to team with him, but I haven't heard whether Duggan has any interest in doing that ... After losing by decision to former WBA super middleweight champion **Steve "Lightning" Little**, "**Maniac**" **Jimmy Deo** says he isn't through with boxer vs. wrestler matches. "I didn't train hard enough for the match," Deo admitted. "That won't happen again. I'll knock him out if he'll give



**JACK HAMMER & DIAMOND MIKE**

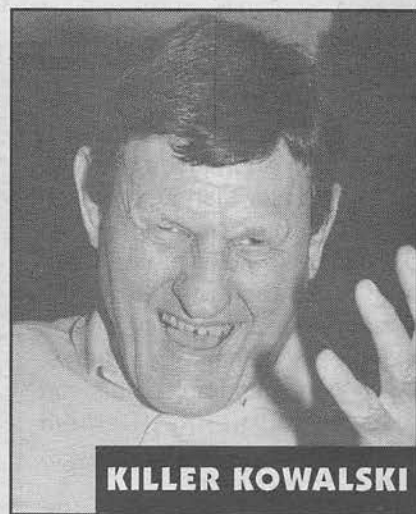
me another chance!"

**Diamond Mike** has brought WWWA Intercontinental champion **Jack Hammer** into the USWA. His original plan was to get Jack a match against heavyweight champion **Sid Vicious**, but that has changed. "I want to manage Sid," Mike says. "Just think of it—Sid Vicious and Jack Hammer as a tag team. There would be no team in the universe that could defeat them." Hammer has been feuding with **Moondog Rex** and has been getting disqualified almost every time they have wrestled.

**Jake Roberts** is still going strong on the independent scene. He has signed to meet a man named **Super Vader** in Georgia's All-Star Wrestling. No, it's not the Vader you're thinking of ... **Rob Van Dam** is also a regular in All-Star; he is feuding with **The Brooklyn Stud** ... "**Man O' War**" **Aldo Montoya** is furious that The Kid dumped him in favor of Bob Holly in the WWF tag team tour-

nament. Expect Montoya to ask for matches against Kid soon. If you like high-flying action, don't miss a single bout ... **Harvey Wippleman** has challenged **Howard Finkel** to a "winner-gets-the-ring-announcer's-job" match. "I have a great voice," Wippleman boasted. "I'll beat 'The Fink,' and take his job."

Bam Bam Bigelow has told reporters that he can't believe how **Ted DiBiase's** Corporation has "gone to hell." Bigelow cited Tatanka as the reason for the organization's problems. He says the Native American was never a good team player ... **King Kong Bundy** has signed to wrestle

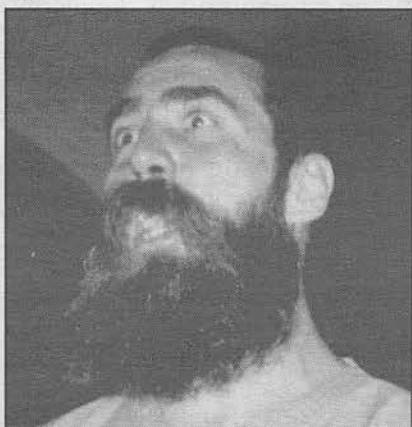


**KILLER KOWALSKI**

**Adam Bomb** on several IWF cards in Massachusetts. Both guys better be careful: Veteran **Killer Kowalski** has agreed to officiate all of their confrontations.

That's all for now. See you at the matches! □

**Apter's WrestleMania Forecast**  
Diesel by countout



**MORGUS THE MANIAC**



**W**HAT IS THE difference between a pay-per-view event and a peep show? Apparently not much when the World Wrestling Federation is concerned.

I am sure everyone saw the advertisement that asked viewers to order the Royal Rumble from their local cable operators. The spot was supposed to be promoting a wrestling card, but the content and focus of the advertisement made it hard to tell what you would actually see for your money.

The spot was filmed on a beach and included several wrestlers. Some were lifting weights. Others were playing volleyball. And a couple more were just walking the shoreline. None of these wrestlers was identified by the graphics or the voice-over. In fact, none of them was even close to being the central figure of the promotional spot, which was kind of strange.

The star of the advertisement was not a wrestler. In fact, the star wasn't even a man. The star of the promotion was Pamela Anderson.

Pamela Anderson is not the latest challenger for the WWF World Women's title. She is not a manager or commentator. Pamela Anderson is one of the stars of *Baywatch*, a weekly syndicated television show that is centered around the lifeguards of a beach community. Folks who keep track of this sort of thing tell us that *Baywatch* has one of the largest viewerships of any program in the world.

Pamela Anderson is tall and tan, buxom and blonde, demure and desirable. Men lust for her; women envy her. There is always some little real or imagined tidbit about her life in the supermarket tabloids or on the nightly entertainment programs. Folks who keep track of this sort of thing tell us that Pamela Anderson is one of the hottest things on television.

You can be sure the WWF was aware of those things when it put her in a halter top and a pair of cutoffs and asked her ... well, just to be Pamela Anderson. For her starring role in the advertisement, all she had to do was stroll along the beach and gaze alluringly into the camera. Pamela Anderson does that as easily as you or I

# ON THE ROAD

With Chris Bernucca

brush our teeth.

Pamela Anderson doesn't even appear to be on the same beach as the unidentified wrestlers, but some clever editing solved that problem. The wrestlers appeared to stop whatever it was they were doing to get a look at Pamela Anderson, which is exactly what the WWF wanted. The WWF wanted the cable viewer to stop whatever he or she was doing and order the pay-per-view event to get a look at Pamela Anderson.

But at the same time the WWF was asking cable subscribers to look at Pamela Anderson, it was also telling viewers not to look at its wrestlers. And whether the WWF cares to admit it or not, that is a marketing problem.

The marketing of every single sporting event relies on the popularity of the participants. Don King does not use round card girls to entice viewers to watch Julio Cesar Chavez. Fox does not use cheerleaders to lure viewers for NFL football games.

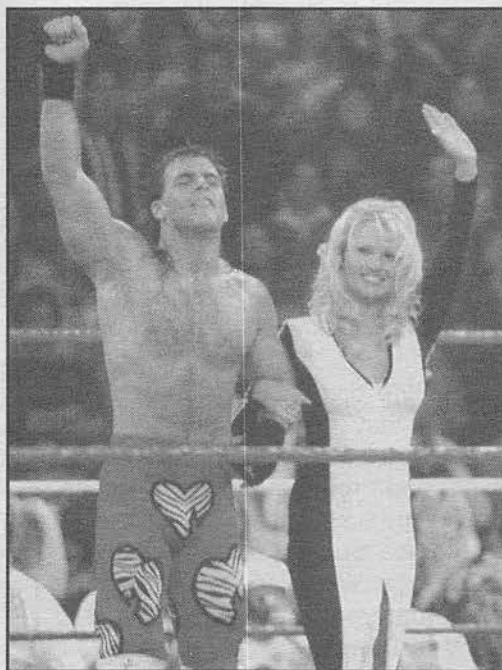
The WWF has Bret Hart, a former World tag team, Intercontinental, and World heavyweight champion who is extremely popular among wrestling fans. It also has Diesel, the current World champion, who has enjoyed a meteoric rise in popularity over the past year. Bret Hart and Diesel wrestled each other in a brilliant, albeit dirty match at the Royal Rumble,

but the WWF didn't use that match to promote its wrestling event. It used Pamela Anderson, who has nothing at all to do with wrestling.

That is not the fault of Pamela Anderson. She cannot be blamed for being attractive or popular. And there is nothing wrong with Pamela Anderson capitalizing on her popularity. She is probably fielding plenty of lucrative offers to promote everything from hair spray to lipstick to suntan lotion. The fact that she has appeared nude in *Playboy* hasn't hurt her chances there. But the WWF shouldn't have used her to promote the Royal Rumble.

That is the fault of the WWF. It doesn't have a wrestler who can come into your living room and demand attention. In fact, it hasn't had one since the depar-

(Continued on page 59)



Buxom *Baywatch* star Pamela Anderson congratulates Shawn Michaels on winning the 1995 Royal Rumble. In case the WWF failed to mention it in its promotional ads, there was actually wrestling at the Rumble.

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**ECW TV TAPE #2 • Features 6 hours of action**  
Snuka vs. Dreamer, Sabu vs. Shane (Brawl) Taz and Sullivan brawl with Bruise Brothers, Sabu vs. Pat Tanaka, Taz & Sullivan vs. Bruise Brothers (Title Change), Sabu vs. Tazmaniac, Douglas & Public Enemy vs. Funk & Crash & Sullivan Plus Pitbull, Cairo, Hawk, Snuka, Mike Awesome, Bad Breed, Sandman and more PLUS tons of other matches and interviews.

**ECW TV TAPE #3 • Features 6 hours of action**  
Tanaka vs. Douglas, Taz vs. JT, Sandman vs. Cairo, Public Enemy vs. Bruise Brothers (Falls count anywhere WILD!!!) Sabu vs. Mike Awesome, Sandman vs. Dreamer, Sabu vs. Terry Funk, Bobby Eaton & Arn Anderson come in!!!! Taz & Sullivan vs. Snuka & Powers PLUS Paul E. Douglas, Pitbull, Hawk, 911, Peaches, Public Enemy, Bruise Brothers and more...

**ECW TV TAPE #4 • Features 6 hours of action**  
Sandman vs. Cairo, Bruise Brothers vs. Public Enemy (Lumberjack match) Funk & Am vs. Sabu & Eaton, Pitbull vs. Mikey, JT & Bruise Brothers & Dreamer vs. Douglas & Hughes & Public Enemy, Taz vs. Sandman PLUS Too Cold Scorpio, Cactus Jack, Sullivan, Jason and more...

**ECW TV TAPE #5 • Features 6 hours of action**  
Sabu vs. Too Cold Scorpio, Cairo vs. Sandman (Falls count anywhere) Funk vs. Public Enemy, Pitbull vs. Jason, Cactus vs. Sabu Clips, Douglas & Hughes vs. Bruise Brothers (Cage match), 911 vs. Cairo, Dreamer vs. Douglas (Bloody), Taz vs. Jimmy Snuka, Public Enemy & Hack vs. Dreamer & Funks Plus Woman, Cactus Jack, Paul E. Peaches, Mikey, and more...

**ECW TV TAPE #6 • Features 4 hours of action**  
911 & Mr. Hughes stare down, Sandman canes Dreamer, Snuka & Pitbulls vs. Funks & Dreamer, Barbed wire clips Funks vs. Public Enemy, Cactus Jack vs. Terry Funk clips, Jason vs. Mikey (Title change), Taz & Snuka vs. Pitbulls PLUS Chad Austin, Sabu, Paul E. Sandman, Dreamer, and more...

**ECW TV TAPE #7 • Features 4 hours of action**  
Sandman vs. Dreamer, Scorpio vs. Sabu clips, 911 vs. Evil Clown, Sandman vs. Dreamer (Canning match • bloody), Douglas vs. Dean Malenko, Douglas vs. Scorpio from tournament, Chris Benoit vs. Scorpio clips, Cactus Jack & Mikey vs. Public Enemy (Title change) Douglas vs. Nishimura PLUS 911, Scorpio, Taz, Woman, Odey, and tons of other matches including all the stars of ECW.

**ECW TV TAPE #8 • Features 4 hours of action**  
Chris Benoit vs. Nishimura, Shane Douglas video, Sandman eye injury, Dreamer vs. Sandman (I quit match) bloody, Cactus Jack vs. Sabu WILD!!!, Jason vs. Mikey PLUS Public Enemy, Woman, Scorpio, Benoit, Paul E. Cactus, Taz, Malenko and all the stars of ECW.

**ECW TV TAPE #9 • Features 4 hours of action**  
Chris Benoit vs. Tazmaniac, Public Enemy vs. Bad Breed (bat match blood bath), Dreamer vs. Cairo (wild brawl all over arena BLOODY), Sandman Press Conference, Douglas vs. Ron Simmons, Cactus Jack & Mikey vs. Public Enemy (bat match title change) Sabu vs. Chris Benoit, Sabu almost breaks his neck PLUS Scorpio, Woman, Sandman, Paul E. Dreamer, and all the stars of ECW.

**ECW TV TAPE #10 • Features 4 hours of action**  
Brian Pillman & Douglas vs. Scorpio & Simmons, Dean Malenko vs. Scorpio (title change), Jason vs. Scorpio, Sabu & Taz vs. Malenos & Public Enemy interfere, Cactus Jack vs. Kevin Sullivan WILD!!!, Sandman vs. Dreamer (blood bath) PLUS Douglas, JT Smith, Sabu, Public Enemy, and all the stars of ECW.

## SMW • Smoky Mountain Wrestling

**SMW TV #1 JAN 1994 • 5 HOURS**  
Bob Armstrong vs. Dick Murdoch • Bodies vs. Fumas Brothers, DWB vs. Brian Lee, Smothers vs. Candito, Bodies attack Paul Morton, DWB vs. Killer Kyle, Candito vs. Spiccoli PLUS The Moon Dogs, Jim Comette, Terry Funk, Smothers, Tammy Fytch and all the stars of SMW.

**SMW TV #2 FEB 1994 Features 4 Hours**  
Terry Funk vs. Bullet, DWB vs. Brian Lee (chain match), R & RX vs. Heavenly Bodies, Bodies & Killer Dyle vs. R & RX & Bobby Blaze Bloody, Press Conference with Thrill Seekers PLUS Moon Dogs, Doug Fumas, Candito, Tammy Fytch, Jim Comette, Dutch Mantel, Bruise Brothers, Well Dunn and all the stars of SMW.

**SMW TV #3 MARCH 1994 Features 4 Hours**  
DWS vs. Hornet, Tom Prichard vs. Tracey Smothers, R & RX vs. Well Dunn, Jim Cornett vs. Armstrong, R & R vs. Bodies (looser leaves town), Smothers vs. Bedlam, Morton vs. Brian Lee, Well Dunn vs. Thrill Seekers PLUS Blaze, DWB, Thrill Seekers, Jake Roberts, Well Dunn, Tammy, Van Horn, and all the stars of SMW.

**SMW TV #4 APRIL 1994 Features over 4 Hours**  
R & RX gets jumped by Lee & Candito, Lee & Candito vs. R & RX, Bruiser Bedlam & Jim Cornett vs. Armstrong, R & RX vs. Bodies (looser leaves town), Smothers vs. Bedlam, Morton vs. Brian Lee, Well Dunn vs. Thrill Seekers PLUS Blaze, DWB, Thrill Seekers, Jake Roberts, Well Dunn, Tammy, Van Horn, and all the stars of SMW.

**SMW TV #5 MAY 1994 Features over 4 Hours**  
Bruiser Bedlam vs. Smothers (bloody), Lee & Candito, Lee & Candito vs. R & RX title change, Candito vs. Ricky Morton, Jake Roberts jumps DWB, Thrill Seekers vs. Well Dunn, Jake Roberts vs. DWB (title change), Randy Savage vs. Bedlam, Candito vs. Morton everyone comes in PLUS Armstrong, Tammy, Candito, R & RX & Bedlam, Dory Funk and all the stars of SMW.

**SMW TV #6 JUNE 1994 Features...**  
Blaze & Fumas vs. Lee & Candito, Smothers vs. Ninja, Well Dunn vs. Seekers, R & RX surprise Tammy with Bambi, DWB vs. Ninja (Jake Roberts interferes), Jake & DWB brawl, Smothers gets attacked by DWB PLUS Armstrongs, Candito, Lee, Comette, R & RX, Thrill Seekers and all the stars of SMW.

**SMW TV #7 JULY 1994 Features...**  
Smothers vs. Killer Kyle, Jake, DDTs, Bambi and DWB saves her, R & RX and Bambi vs. Lee and Candito & Tammy, Funks vs. Armstrongs, Bodies jump Thrill Seekers in parking lot, Smothers vs. Brian Lee, Gangstas debut PLUS Terry Gordy, Thrill Seekers, Bodies, Comette and all the other stars of SMW.

**SMW TV #8 AUGUST 1994 Features...**  
Lee & Candito vs. Amnstrongs, Slater & Orton vs. Stomper & R. Garvin, Bodies vs. Thrill Seekers-Bloodiest match ever, R & RX vs. Lee & Candito (hair match), R & RX vs. Lee & Candito (title change) Lee turns on Candito, DWB vs. Killer Kyle, Candito vs. Lance Storm, R & RX vs. Bodies PLUS Gangstas, Bedlam, Chris Walker and all the other stars of SMW.

**SMW TV #9 SEPT 1994 Features...**  
Gangstas vs. R & RX (R&RX get injured), R & RX vs. Gangstas re-match) Parking lot brawl with R & RX & Gangstas, Lance Storm vs. Boo Bradley, Brian Lee & Lance Storm vs. Candito & Boo Bradley, Gangstas hang Ricky Morton, Bedlam & Killer Kyle vs. Smothers & Armstrong PLUS tons of other matches with all the SMW stars.

**SMW TV #10 OCT 1994 Features...**  
Boo Bradley vs. Lee, DWB & Bedlam Brawl, Ole Anderson and Bryant Anderson debut, Cactus Jack debut, Gangstas vs. R & RX, New Jack vs. Robert Bibson, Cactus Jack vs. Austin, Gangstas vs. R & RX bar room brawl, DWB vs. Bedlam (whipping match) Abby Video, Cactus & Boo Bradley Brawl, R & RX vs. Gangstas bloody brawl PLUS other matches with all the stars of SMW.

## SMW • Smoky Mountain Wrestling

**SMW TV #11 NOV 1994 Features...**  
Bryant Anderson and Smothers confrontation, Gangstas vs. Brian Lee & Lance Storm wild brawl, Cornett and Armstrong argue, Cactus Jack feud clips, Comette & Bedlam training video, Jim Comette asks Gangstas to let him manage them, but they turn him down, PLUS Candito, Boo Bradley, Smothers, Anderson and all the other stars of SMW.

**SMW TV #12 DEC 1994 Features...**  
Gangstas attack Armstrong, Anderson attacks Smothers, Cactus Jack vs. Candito, Gangstas vs. Armstrongs, Buddy Landel attacks DWB, Cactus Jack vs. Boo Bradley, Jim Comette helps R & RX amazing!! DWB & Landel brawl, Lee vs. Landel title change, PLUS Jerry Lawler, Candito, Lee, Smothers, Anderson, Cactus, and all the other stars of SMW.

## USWA

**USWA TV #1—6 HOURS Features...**  
PG13 vs. Eliminators, Lawler & Christopher vs. Gilbert & Machine, Tommy Rich & Gilbert vs. Moon Dogs, Tommy Rich vs. Jerry Lawler & Gilbert & Rich vs. Lawler & Brian Christopher, Sid Vicious interferes GREAT!!! PLUS PG13, Koko B Ware, Master of Orient, Jef Gaylord, and all the stars of USWA.

**USWA TV #2—6 HOURS Features...**  
Tommy Rich vs. Lawler (barbed wire blood bath), Christopher and Moon Dogs vs. Gilbert & Rich & Machine, Spellbinder vs. Christopher, Sid Vicious jumps Gaylord, Doug Gilbert vs. Brian Christopher plus PG13, Eliminators, Sid Vicious, Huber Reggie B Fine.

**USWA TV #3—6 HOURS Features...**  
Gilbert vs. Christopher (Car vs. title), Buddy Landel debut, Sid Vicious attacks Lawler, Landel turns on Christopher, Sid Vicious vs. Tanaka, Moon Dogs vs. Rich & Landel (blood bath), Lawler vs. Spellbinder, Moon Dogs get jumped by Rich & Landel, Lawler & Idol vs. Sid Vicious & Huber PLUS all the other stars of USWA.

**USWA TV #4—6 HOURS Features...**  
Rich & Landel attack Moon Dogs, Landel & Rich vs. PG13 parking lot brawl, Lawlervs. Sid Vicious, Landel vs. Christopher, Sid & Gilbert vs. Eliminators, Lawler & Christopher vs. Spellbinder & Fine, Christophers vs. Gilbert (Hair vs. Hair), Dark Patriot vs. Christopher, all the other stars of USWA.

**USWA TV #5—6 HOURS Features...**  
Sid Vicious & Gilbert vs. Lawler & Christopher, PG13 & Miss Texas vs. Phantoms & Fantasia, Lawler vs. Gilbert, Rich vs. Lawler, bloody locker room brawl, Mable vs. Sid Vicious, Landel vs. Rich, Moon Dogs vs. Cadillac Brother PLUS Spellbinder, Landel, PG13, and all the other stars of USWA.

**USWA TV #6—6 HOURS Features...**  
Rich & Landel feud clips, Lawler & Christophers vs. Rich & Gilbert PLUS a bloody locker room brawl, Moon Dogs vs. Rich & Gilbert & Dowden vs. Lawler & Dundee & Christopher, Rich vs. Landel, Gaylord vs. Spellbinder, Bruise Brothers debut, Lawler & Dundee & Christophers vs. Rich & Gilbert & Machine, PLUS tons of other matches with all the USWA stars.

**USWA TV #7—6 HOURS Features...**  
Lawler & Sid brawl, Rich vs. Christopher, Dundee & Gilbert brawl, Rich & Christopher brawl, PG13 & Dundee vs. Spellbinder & Gilbert & Rich, best of Memphis 10 man tag match PLUS tons of year in review matches with Funk, Sid Vicious, Lawler, Dundee, Rich, Landel and all of the other stars of USWA.

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# Behind the Dressing Room Door

by David Rosenbaum

**T**EN VERY SHORT, well-managed years after his career began in obscurity, Shawn Michaels will be crowned WWF World champion at WrestleMania XI, and there's nothing anybody, including Diesel, can do to stop him.

The sport will have its new Ric Flair, the WWF will have its much-needed shot in the arm, and shortly afterward, people will again be debating which federation is better, WCW or the WWF, and coming up with a surprising answer: The WWF has better wrestling.

These are my conclusions just minutes after watching the Royal Rumble in Tampa, Florida. The best pay-per-view event of the year was once again better than Starrcade, WrestleMania, Halloween Havoc, and the Survivor Series rolled into one and proved something I suspected all along: The Royal Rumble makes the wrestlers, not the other way around.

Take 30 guys off the street, stick them into the ring, tell them the prize is a World title shot at WrestleMania, and you're going to get the most intense brawl of the year. It's what the WWF gets

every time with the best of its (limited) talented roster.

But talent won out this time and overcame all obstacles in the Royal Rumble\*. (The \* is for the format change; in past years, a new wrestler entered the ring every two minutes, making the Royal Rumble the ultimate test of endurance for the first five or even 10 wrestlers who entered the ring. This year, a new wrestler entered the ring every minute, which is fairer to the early entrants, but not quite in the spirit of the Rumble.)

When the Royal Rumble started, Michaels and Davey Boy Smith, undoubtedly the two most

talented wrestlers in the event, were standing in the middle of the ring going blow-for-blow. Thirty-eight minutes later, Michaels rammed Davey Boy from behind and sent him tumbling over the top rope and to the arena floor.

In between, Michaels enjoyed a few rest stops, endured numerous attacks, nearly got knocked unconscious, and eliminated seven wrestlers: Duke "The Dumpster" Droese, Tom Prichard, Bushwhacker Luke, Jacob Blu, Bushwhacker Butch, Aldo Montoya, and Smith. Perhaps Michaels wouldn't have made it to the end if Lex Luger, ever the fool,

hadn't saved him from certain elimination by Henry Godwinn. Or if the two referees standing on the arena floor weren't sharp enough to notice that Michaels' right foot never hit the ground as he swung from the top rope after Davey Boy nearly eliminated him.

But it was just this kind of desperate, determined performance that makes me know Michaels is ready to ascend the final rung of the ladder and take his place at the top of the wrestling world. Earlier in the card, we saw Michaels attack Diesel, his former bodyguard and tag team partner, on two occasions and prevent him from successfully completing his World title defense against Bret Hart. Later, I was impressed as Michaels kept his mind on business and his eyes off of the beautiful Pamela Anderson sitting at ringside.

Usually, Michaels would

*(Continued on page 58)*



Shawn Michaels will be able to look at his reflection in the WWF World title belt after WrestleMania XI, according to Dave Rosenbaum. He says the "Heartbreak Kid" proved how smart he is by winning the Royal Rumble.

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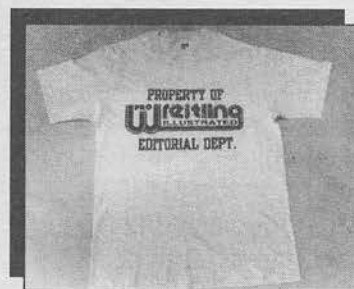


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Sting hails from which California beach community?

- 1) Malibu
- 2) Pacific Heights
- 3) Venice Beach
- 4) Newport Beach

Who managed The Moondogs to the WWF World tag team title?

- 1) The Grand Wizard
- 2) Capt. Lou Albano
- 3) Fred Blassie
- 4) Bobby Heenan

True or False: Rick Steamboat once briefly held the AWA World title.

- 1) True
- 2) False

Which of the following wrestlers has never held the WCW television title (as of December 31, 1994)?

- 1) Sting
- 2) Steve Austin
- 3) Rick Steiner
- 4) Scott Steiner

**How did you do? If you're up for the challenge and want to put your wrestling knowledge to work, call now and go for the \$100!\***



# the Insider

by Eddie Ellner

*(The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Eddie Ellner alone, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.)*

## NEWS ITEM: BROTHERS in arms.

Perhaps you heard whispered around arenas the rumor that Hulk Hogan and Brutus "The Butcher" Beefcake are actually brothers. It was one of the more persistent family rumors of the mid-1980s, along with the one linking fallen manager Gary Hart to fallen politician Gary Hart.

Both Hogan and Beefcake vehemently denied the rumor, with Hogan once saying, "Brothers carry a lot of negative baggage. Too much competition growing up. Brutus and I are a lot closer than brothers."

Recent events, of course, have proven otherwise. The intensity of the hate defining their current relationship has revived the idea that these two might be brothers. With Bret and Owen Hart going at each other like rabid dogs, one can well-imagine Hogan and Beefcake battling over an Etch-A-Sketch, or vying for Mom's attention.

When asked, Brutus Beefcake's sour expression melted into laughter. "Brothers?" he repeated. "Me and that bald-headed geek? I have my hair. I have athletic ability. I have a personality. I have good looks. Brothers? You're crazy, man."

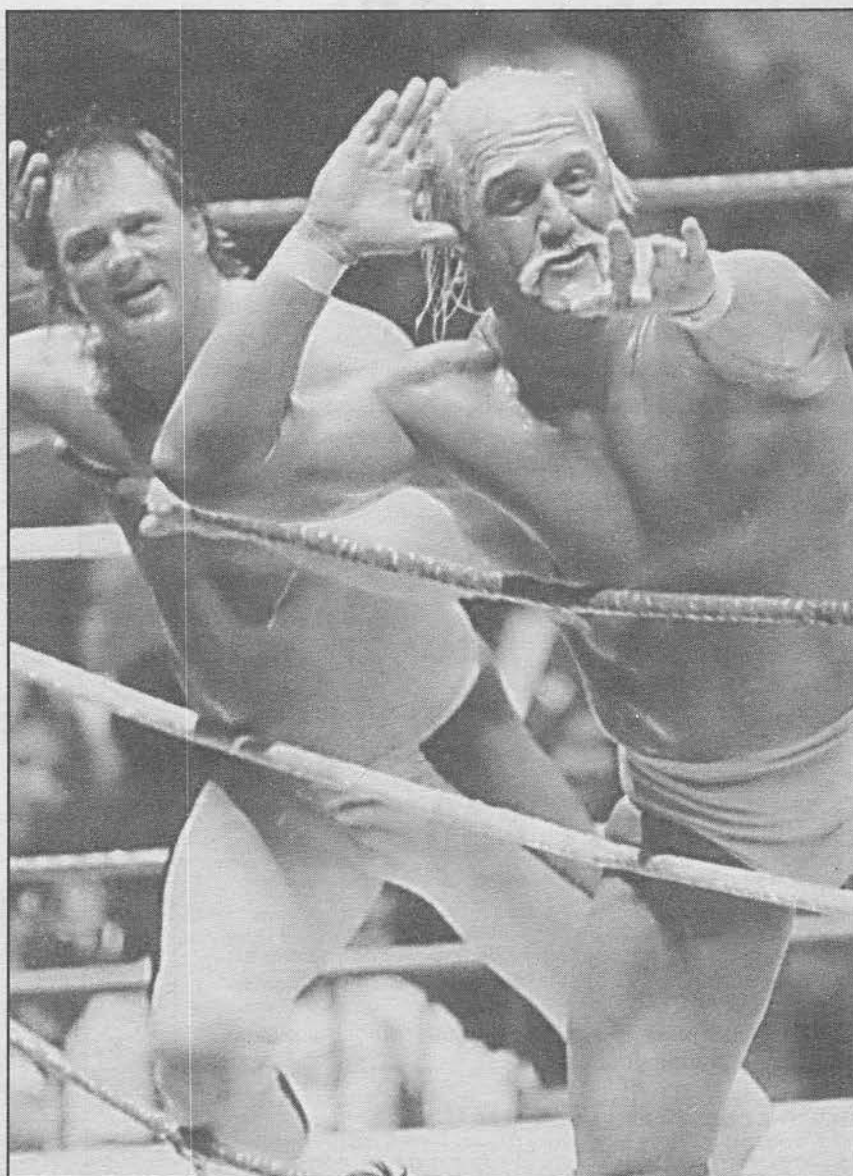
Feuding blood brothers make great copy. Before the Harts there was Randy Savage and Lanny Poffo, Eddie and Doug Gilbert, Ronnie and Jim Garvin, and even

the ageless Terry and Dory Funk Jr.

"Fans think Dory and I were great buddies all the time," Terry explained. "There was a period of time there where I hated him and vice versa. We begged promoters to put us in the ring against each other. They were dying to, but were too scared of my father, who would never allow it. Too bad. I would have taken Dory out, I know that. I still could."

Battling brothers make for such great box office that one promoter

*(Continued on page 60)*



For all those who are stupid enough to believe inane rumors, Hulk Hogan and Brutus Beefcake are not brothers. I'd hate to think what wrestling would be like if there were too bald Hogans making these kinds of ridiculous gestures.

FORUM BOXING PRESENTS:

# MUCHO MACHISMO

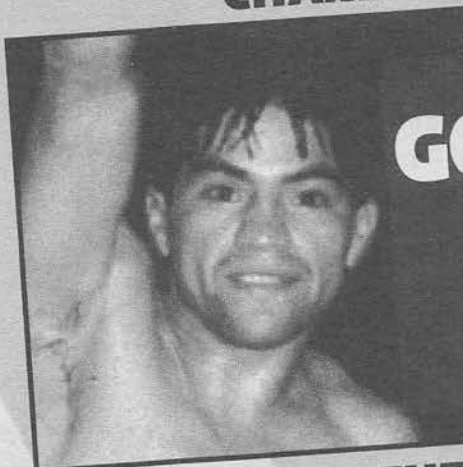
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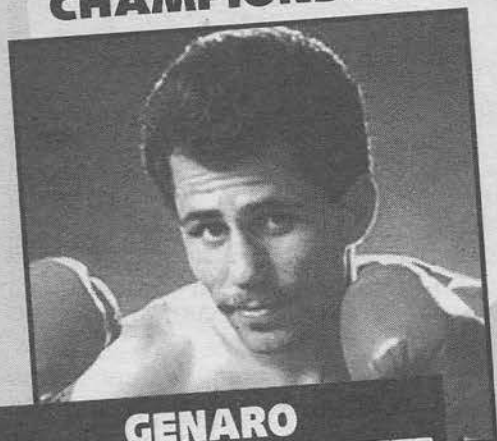
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**IBF/WBC LIGHT FLYWEIGHT  
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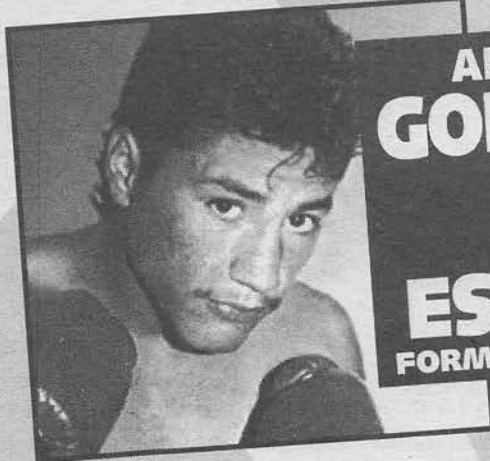


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GONZALEZ  
VS  
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# ON Assignment

By Liz Hunter

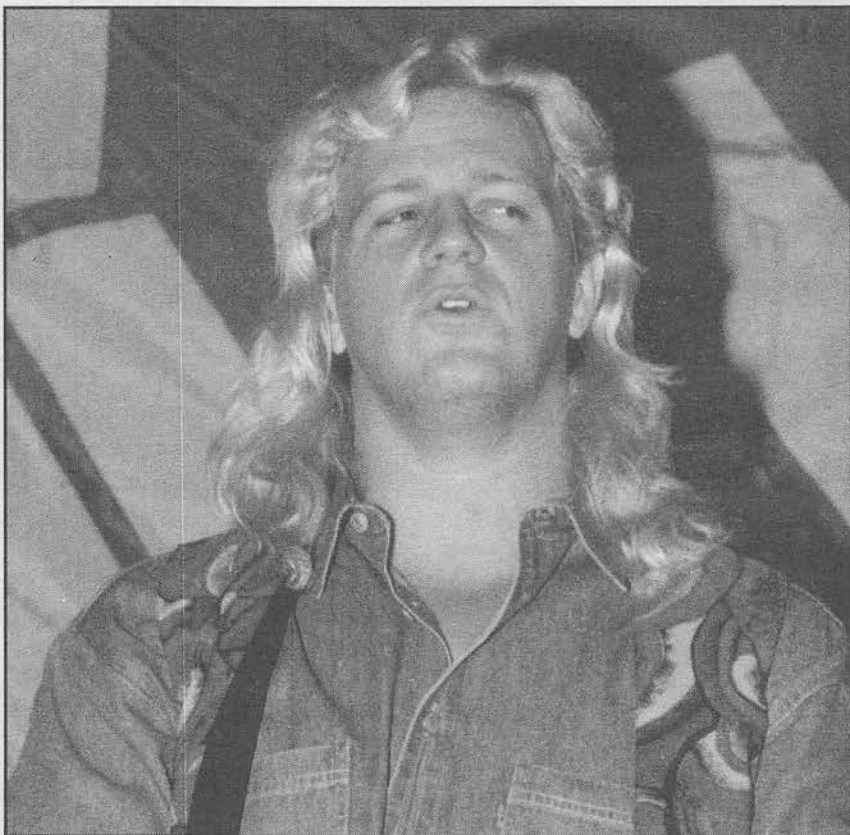
**Y**OU'LL RECALL THAT last month a fractured ankle exiled me to the bedroom and a box full of old columns. While it was fun to wax Matt Brock-ish for a month and conjure some ancient memories on the phone, I was dying to get out of my house and back on the road. Between the Beefcake-Hogan-Savage-Vader rectangle in WCW, and the Diesel-Michaels-Hart soap operas in WWF, I was missing too much action. Fortunately, I am a healthy person with fast-mending bones. After only three weeks the cast came off; two more weeks of physical therapy and I was oiled, lubed, and ready to roll.

First card I took in was at Madison Square Garden, six days before the Royal Rumble. I went with, of all people, Ellner. The main event had Jeff Jarrett up against Diesel. "Double-J" never stood a chance. Diesel "jack-knifed" him and pinned him. Afterward, Shawn Michaels and The Roadie and Jarrett attacked Diesel and injured his ribs.

I told Ellner what a fool I thought Jarrett was; Ellner just laughed at me. "He's smarter than you think," he replied. "Wait till he takes on Ramon at the Rumble. He'll have a plan." Sure enough, Jarrett did beat Ramon for the I-C belt at the Rumble.

*Maybe Ellner isn't so dumb after all*, I thought. After the Garden card, I knew I was ready to head back on the road. At least I thought I was.

"I think you're gonna like this assignment, Liz," Publisher Stu Saks said a few days later, handing me an envelope thick with cash. I liked it already. There was



Jeff Jarrett didn't look too good in a match against Diesel at Madison Square Garden, as Liz Hunter found out. She was *shocked* to see "Double-J" win the I-C belt and gained new respect for Eddie Ellner when it happened.

\$2,500 in the envelope.

"We want you to drive across the United States," Stu said. "We want you to stop in small towns, big cities, anywhere where there's wrestling happening, and write us the Great American wrestling road saga."

I should bust a bone more often. What an assignment! For all my traveling, I'd never driven straight across the country. It has always been a dream of mine. I was raised on Dylan and Springsteen and old Woody Guthrie ballads. I was nine when my hippie mother yanked me out of school to go see *Easy Rider*. Now I was off, from the Redwood forests to

the Gulf Stream Waters. I was psyched. The prospect of 3,000 miles of open roads, of taking the first great American wrestling road trip ... why the idea gave me goosebumps. I was flattered.

"I'm really flattered, Stu," I said. "I can't believe you'd give me this one."

"There is one small hitch," Stu said, in that insidious Stu voice of his.

"What?"

"You'll be driving with Ellner."

Let me tell you something about this job. There is no equivalent to it anywhere else in sports journalism. Women reporters turn

(Continued on page 62)

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2541	Alice in Chains	3262	Danger Danger	5261	Jane's Addiction	6723	Ozzy Osbourne
2551	Allman Bros.	3265	Danzig	4272	Jerry Garcia Band	7263	Pantera
2681	Anthrax	2691	David Bowie	5371	Jesus Jones	7692	Patty Smyth
2527	B-52s	7681	David Lee Roth	5385	Jethro Tull	7463	Paul Simon
2233	Bad Company	3332	Deep Purple	2831	Jimmy Buffett	6221	Paul McCartney
2323	Beatles	3331	Def Leppard	7282	Joe Satriani	9373	Paul Westerberg
2325	Beck	3371	Depeche Mode	6351	John Mellencamp	7321	Pearl Jam
2352	Belly	3461	Dinosaur Jr.	5831	Judas Priest	4221	Peter Gabriel
2381	Beverly Hills 90210	3462	Dio	4282	Juliana Hatfield	3722	Peter Dinklage
2444	Big Head Todd/Monsters	3472	Dire Straits	5262	Kansas	7441	Phish
4361	Billy Idol	3733	Dream Theater	5461	King's X	7462	Pink Floyd
5632	Billy Joel	3871	Duran Duran	5462	The Kinks	7641	Poison
2523	Black Crowes	3242	The Eagles	5472	KISS	7671	Porno For Pyros
2524	Black Sabbath	2741	Eddie Brickell	5332	Led Zeppelin	7745	Primus
2544	Blind Melon	5641	Elton John	5366	Lemonheads	7762	Prong
3951	Bob Dylan	2671	Elvis Costello	5721	Lenny Kravitz	1831	Queen
2661	Bon Jovi	3681	Enuff Z'nuff	5451	Lillian Axe	1832	Queensryche
2662	Bonham	5642	Eric Johnson	3671	Lita Ford	7363	R.E.M.
2731	Breeders	2525	Eric Clapton	5484	Live	7232	Radiohead
2769	Brother Cane	3981	Extreme	5962	Lynch Mob	7265	Ramones
4673	Bruce Hornsby	3241	Faith No More	7931	Matthew Sweet	7283	RATT
7771	Bruce Springsteen	3442	Fight	6322	Meat Loaf	7332	Red Hot Chili Peppers
2321	Bryan Adams	3471	Firehouse	6241	Megadeth	6273	Richard Marx
2852	Bulletboys	3531	Fleetwood Mac	3841	Melissa Etheridge	7521	Robert Plant
2881	Butthole Surfers	3673	Foreigner	6382	Metallica	7832	Rod Stewart
9433	Catherine Wheel	4362	Genesis	2651	Michael Bolton	7651	Rolling Stones
9431	Cheryl Wheeler	8462	George Thorogood	6431	Midnight Oil	7652	Rollins Band
2461	Cinderella	4461	Gin Blossoms	6443	Mighty M. Bosstones	7871	Rush
2656	Collective Soul	4721	Grateful Dead	6463	Ministry	7223	Sacred Reich
2663	Concrete Blonde	4731	Great White	6252	Mitch Malloy	7261	Santana
2683	Counting Crows	4737	Green Day	6672	Morrissey	7374	Sepultura
2682	Coverdale/Page	4735	Green Jelly	6682	Motley Crue	6262	Sinead O'Connor
2693	Cowboy Junkies	4861	Guns N' Roses	6681	Motorhead	7541	Skid Row
2726	Cracker	4274	Hardline	6721	Mr. Big	7523	Slaughter
2723	Cranberries	4321	Heart	6331	Ned's Atomic Dustbin	7524	Slayer
						7621	Smashing Pumpkins
						7643	Smithereens
						7661	Sonic Youth
						7683	Soul Asylum
						7682	Soundgarden
						7746	Spin Doctors
						7181	Squeeze
						8242	Steve Vai
						6421	Stevie Nicks
						7842	Sting
						7863	Stone Temple Pilots
						7834	Suede
						7841	Suicidal Tendencies
						7862	Sundays
						8341	Suzanne Vega
						8251	Talking Heads
						8321	Tears For Fears
						6841	Ted Nugent
						8371	Tesla
						8372	Testament
						8432	The The
						7381	Tom Petty
						2622	Tom Cochrane
						8662	Tool
						8741	Trixter Fan Club
						8221	U2
						8241	UB40
						8451	Ugly Kid Joe
						8743	Urge Overkill
						8262	Van Halen
						6341	Vince Neil
						8461	Violent Femmes
						9271	W.A.S.P.
						9272	Warrant
						9441	White Zombie
						9463	The Who
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						9671	World Party
						9371	Yes
						6251	Yngwie Malmsteen
						1181	ZZ Top

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# INSIDE WRESTLING CAPSULE PROFILE <sup>227</sup>

## CACTUS JACK

**I**F YOU WANT to watch a good, clean, scientific match, you probably don't want to watch a

Cactus Jack match. The 6'4", 277-pound brawler is always reckless and always willing to do anything to win ... Was trained by Dominic DeNucci and made his pro debut in 1983 ... Joined Robert Fuller's CWA Stud Stable in 1988, but left after a dispute with Fuller and Jimmy Golden (*"I've never been a good team player"*) ... Moved to World Class in 1988, joining the stable of Gen. Skandor Akbar ... Jack and Zodiac II beat Jeff Jarrett and Kerry Von Erich for the tag team title on May 30, 1989 (*"We destroyed those pretty boys!"*) ... After winning several more tag team titles with different partners, moved to WCW under the tutelage of Kevin Sullivan (*"I never really trusted that snake!"*)

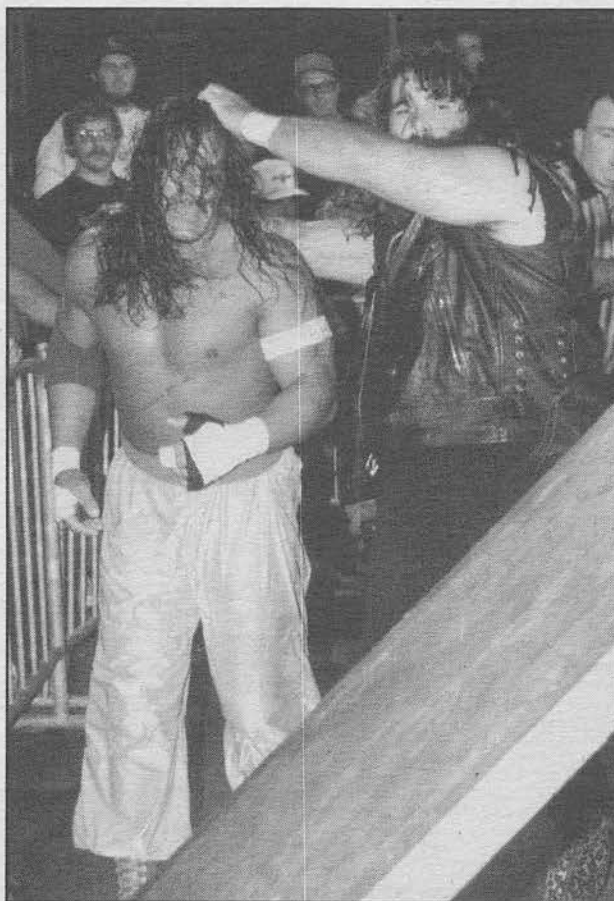
... Teamed with Sullivan in a series of bouts against Abdullah the Butcher and Norman (*"The bloodier the better!"*) ... Left WCW for the independent circuit after Capital Combat '90 ... Feuded with Don Muraco, Sunny Beach,

and Brain Blair in the new UWF (*"All three put together weren't as tough as me!"*) ... Started a long, bloody rivalry with Eddie Gilbert. One night in Philadelphia, they wrestled in three different stipulation matches (*"Gilbert's as sick as I am!"*) ... Returned to WCW and

match when Jack accidentally pulled a switch that electrified Abdullah (*"I think he liked it!"*) ... Had a falling-out with Abdullah that led to a bloody series of matches (*"Those matches were fun"*) ... Eventually turned fan favorite and went after World

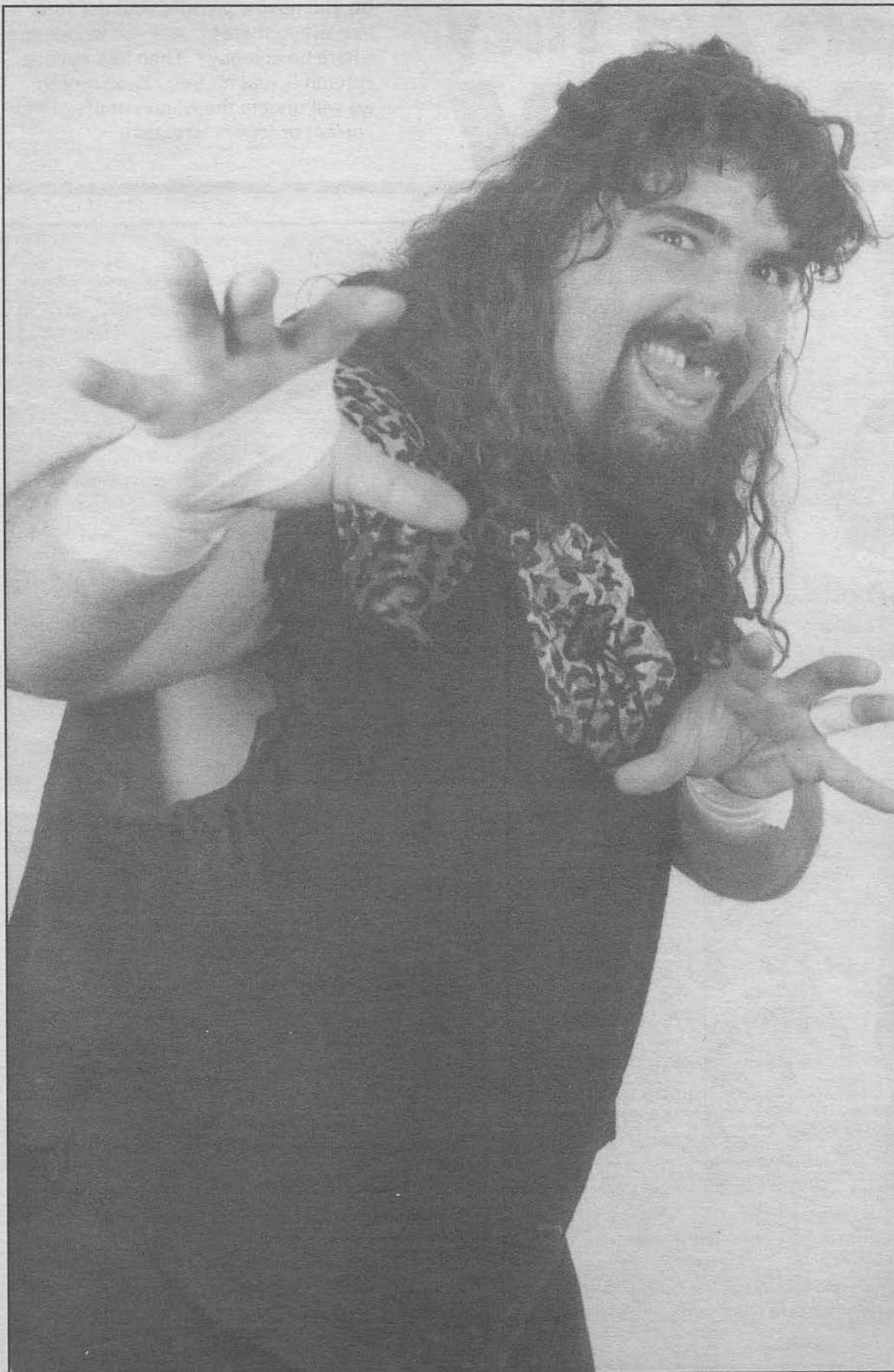
champion Vader ... Was nearly paralyzed after Vader power-bombed him on the concrete floor in April 1993 (*"Sorry, I don't remember"*) ... Lost a Texas death match to Vader at Halloween Havoc '93 when Harley Race stunned him with a cattle prod (*"It was quite a shock"*) ... Turned his attention to tag teams, first with Maxx Payne, then with Kevin Sullivan ... They won the WCW World tag team title from The Nasty Boys at Slamboree '94 (*"I hated Sullivan, but we were champions"*) ... They lost the title two months later and Cactus split with Sullivan, who then beat him in a "loser-leaves-WCW" bout ... Has since wrestled a series of violent battles with Sabu, mostly in ECW (*"And I thought I was deranged"*) ... Arrived in Smoky Mountain in the fall

of 1994, vowing to rescue Boo Bradley from Tammy Fytch (*"She treated him like a dog"*) ... Finally convinced him to turn fan favorite ... Because of his reckless style, Jack remains one of the most popular wrestlers in North America.



Cactus Jack's ongoing feud with Sabu is one of the most brutal and most exciting on the independent circuit. They are arguably the two most reckless and daring wrestlers in the world today.

began antagonizing Sting (*"I don't like a man who wears makeup"*) ... Jack, Big Van Vader, Abdullah, and Diamond Studd lost to Sting, Rick and Scott Steiner, and El Gigante at a 1991 Halloween Havoc "Chamber Of Horrors"



# CACTUS JACK



# Where Are They NOW

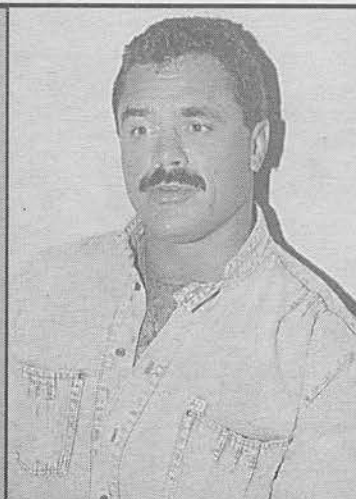
Do you have a favorite wrestler who has left your area? Are you wondering where he is today? Then this special column is just for you. Each month we will update the whereabouts of four current or former wrestlers



## LUNA VACHON

The woman who made life difficult for Alundra Blayze for so many months has decided to leave the WWF. Vachon brought current World Women's champion Bull Nakano to the WWF to battle Blayze and is currently training her husband, Vampire

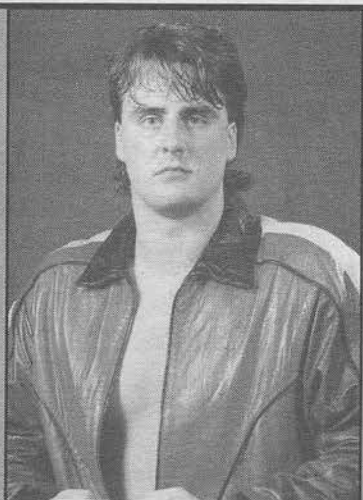
Warrior, in hopes of someday making him a world champion. "He will be a world champion," she screamed. "I made Bull Nakano a champion. I can make anyone a champion if I want to!" Luna and Warrior were married last Halloween.



## RICK RUDE

Not much has been heard from the "Ravishing One" since he left WCW after a dispute over the now-defunct International heavy-weight title in May 1994. Rude insists he is independently wealthy and will only return to wrestling if he decides he wants to add another title or two to his

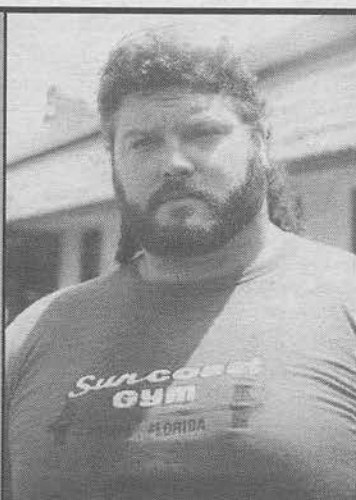
championship resume. He spends his days working out at his home in Florida. "Wrestling hasn't been the same since I left," he said. "That's because I'm the greatest who ever lived."



## ERIK WATTS

Watts has been wrestling a light schedule since leaving WCW a few months ago. The son of former WCW Executive Vice President Bill Watts recently appeared on an AWA card in Minnesota and has also competed in other Midwest in-

dependents. "Wrestling in WCW was a great experience," he said, "but I felt it was time to try wrestling in some different places." Watts is also working on a new version of the STF at a training center near his home in Oklahoma.



## TYPHOON

Avalanche's partner in The Natural Disasters in the WWF, Typhoon (who also briefly competed as Shockmaster in WCW in 1993) devotes much of his time to a private business he owns in Florida, while only wrestling occasionally

for the NWA in the Northeast. He says he has had preliminary talks with Avalanche about joining the Faces of Fear. "I'm keeping my options open," he said. "I'm great enough to beat anyone in the world. I'm the ultimate Natural Disaster!"

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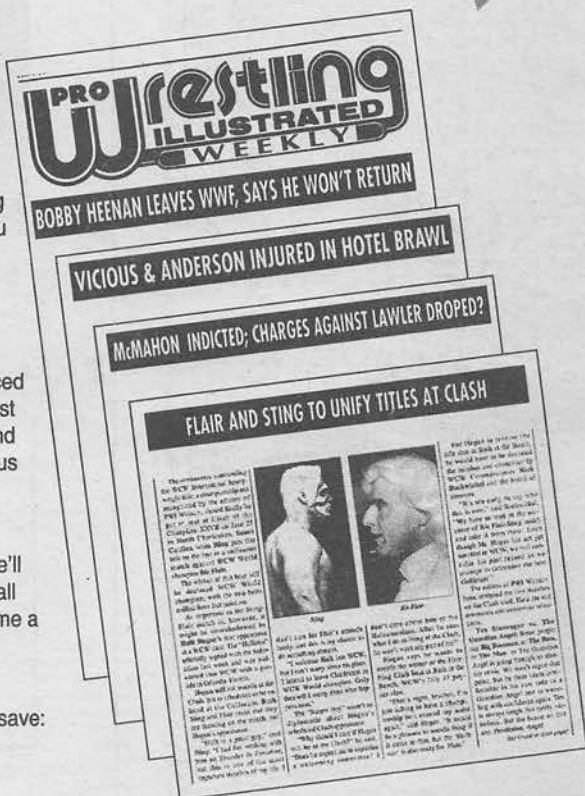
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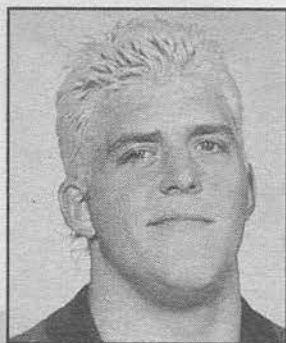
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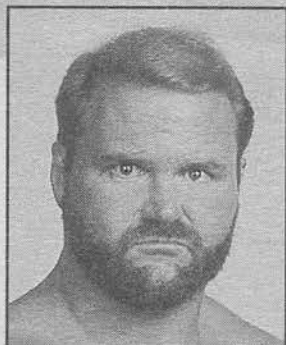


# NEWS FROM THE

## ROSEMONT, IL BY GREG LESLIE



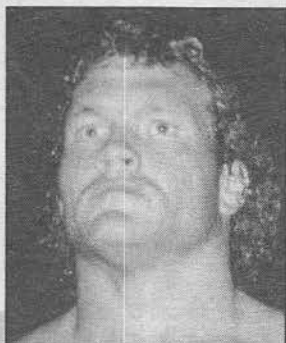
### DUSTIN RHODES VS. ARN ANDERSON



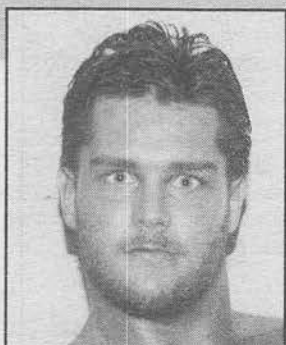
This bullrope match took place before Anderson won the WCW TV title, and it was a good thing for him. "The Enforcer" was actually reluctant to allow the referee to attach the bullrope to his wrist, but he relented. He tried to execute a superplex, but Rhodes was ready. Dustin pushed Anderson down and clotheslined him. Anderson recovered, though. After applying a rear chinlock, he DDT'd Dustin and went for the pin. Dustin kicked out and mounted an offense of his own. He pinned "Double-A" following a flying bulldog headlock.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Alex Wright pinned Jean-Paul LeVeque ... Johnny B. Badd pinned Bunkhouse Buck ... The Nasty Boys defeated Harlem Heat ... Marcus Bagwell & The Patriot beat Paul Orndorff & Paul Roma ... U.S. champion Big Van Vader pinned Hacksaw Duggan ... Hulk Hogan & Sting beat Brutus Beefcake & Avalanche.

## MEMPHIS, TN BY PHIL SEAWRIGHT



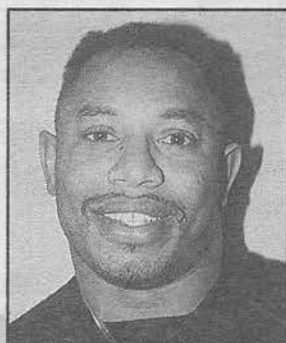
### SID VICIOUS VS. BRIAN CHRISTOPHER



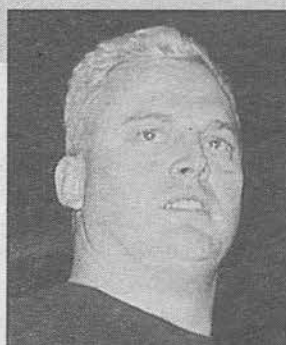
It was a title vs. title match as Southern champion Christopher earned a shot at the USWA championship by beating Spellbinder and Jerry Lawler in a tournament. It turned out to be one of the few matches in which Vicious didn't rely on outside interference. He and Christopher battled inside and outside the ring. It finally ended with Vicious on top of Christopher. Both men's shoulders were on the mat as the referee made the count, but Sid raised his shoulders just before the count of three and was awarded the victory.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Scott Studd defeated Tommy Harris ... Jack Hammer beat Doug Basham ... The Moondogs beat Reggie B. Fine & Don Bass ... Miss Texas defeated Sweet Georgia Brown ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express and PG-13 wrestled to a no-contest ... USWA tag team champs Doug Gilbert & Tommy Rich beat PG-13.

## PHILADELPHIA, PA BY GREG TOWNES



### 2 COLD SCORPIO VS. THE SANDMAN



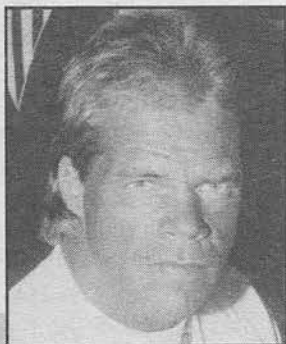
Scorpio was at a disadvantage before this match even started, because he made the mistake of picking up the house microphone and bad-mouthing Dean Malenko and Chris Benoit. "The Shooter" and "The Crippler" came out and attacked him. Sandman took his time going after 2 Cold. Both men smashed each other with chairs, and Sandman bled from his mouth. Scorpio eventually pinned Sandman after a moonsault. Afterward, Malenko and Benoit again attacked Scorpio.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Steve Richards pinned Hack Myers ... Al Snow pinned Osamu Nishimura ... Paul Lauria defeated Mikey Whipwreck ... The Pit Bulls defeated Ian & Axl Rotten ... ECW champion Shane Douglas and Tully Blanchard wrestled to a 60-minute time-limit draw ... 911, Tasmaniac, & Sabu defeated Public Enemy, Chris Benoit, & Dean Malenko.

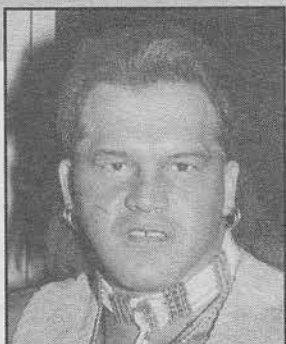
# WRESTLING CAPITALS

## SAN FRANCISCO, CA

BY WAYNE PETTIS



**LEX LUGER  
VS.  
TATANKA**



It was surprising how slowly this match started. Luger and Tatanka took a few minutes to feel each other out, and Luger's punches seemed to have little effect. A bearhug did wear him down. Tatanka's tomahawk chops then started to hit their mark, and Luger was knocked out of the ring. They both remained on the arena floor and were counted out by the referee. Luger demanded that Tatanka return to the ring, and he ultimately did. Luger put him in his "torture rack," and they eventually brawled back to the dressing room.

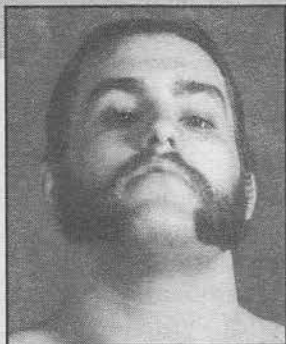
**OTHER BOUTS:** The Smokin' Gunns beat The Heavenly Bodies ... Wink & Pink beat Queasy & Sleazy ... Bam Bam Bigelow pinned Adam Bomb ... Aldo Montoya beat Steve Lombardi ... Intercontinental champion Razor Ramon defeated Bob Backlund ... Davey Boy Smith pinned Owen Hart ... The Undertaker beat Irwin R. Schyster.

## ERLANGER, KY

BY MILLICENT GILLINGHAM



**TRACEY SMOTHERS  
VS.  
BRYANT ANDERSON**

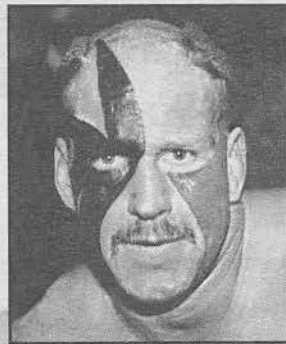


This match was one in a series of very intriguing matches in Smoky Mountain. Young Bryant had to be at his best on this night if he had any chance of beating Smothers in an "I Quit" match. Anderson tried to lock his armbar submission hold on Smothers throughout the match, but Tracey kept avoiding it. The action got more brutal when both men slid outside the ring and used chairs to pound each other. Once back inside, Smothers got one of those chairs, hit Anderson, and clamped on a chicken wing. After a few minutes, Anderson quit.

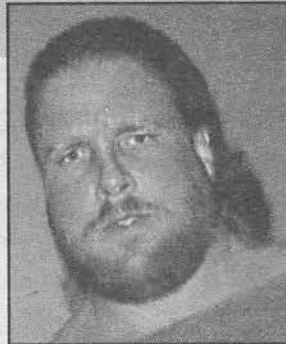
**OTHER BOUTS:** Brian Taylor beat Sean Casey ... Tag team champions The Rock 'n' Roll Express defeated The Gangstas ... Cactus Jack pinned Chris Candido ... Buddy Landell beat heavyweight champion Tony Anthony by disqualification ... Cactus Jack won a battle royal, last eliminating New Jack and Bryant Anderson.

## TOKYO, JAPAN

BY KOICHI YOSHIZAWA



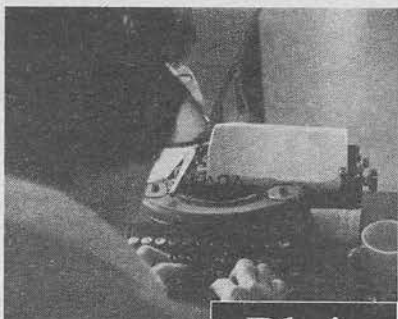
**ROAD WARRIOR  
HAWK  
VS.  
SCOTT NORTON**



Many of the 62,000 people in attendance at the Tokyo Dome were talking about the possibility of a Road Warriors reunion when they saw Animal come to the ring with Hawk. It was a good thing he was there, too, as Norton powerslammed and clotheslined Hawk shortly after he entered the ring. Animal screamed his friend's name in an effort to get him to make a comeback. Then he decided to interfere; he pulled Norton's leg and took him down as he came off the ropes. Norton never recovered, and Hawk pinned him after a top-roped clothesline.

**OTHER BOUTS:** Norio Honaga pinned Great Sasuke ... Sting beat Tony Palmore ... Antonio Inoki defeated Gerald Gordeau ... Sabu & Masa Chono beat Junji Hirata & Tatsumi Fujinami ... Antonio Inoki beat Sting ... Hiroshi Hase & The Great Muta beat Rick & Scott Steiner ... Shinya Hashimoto beat Kensuke Sasaki.





## Matt Brock's **Plain Speaking**

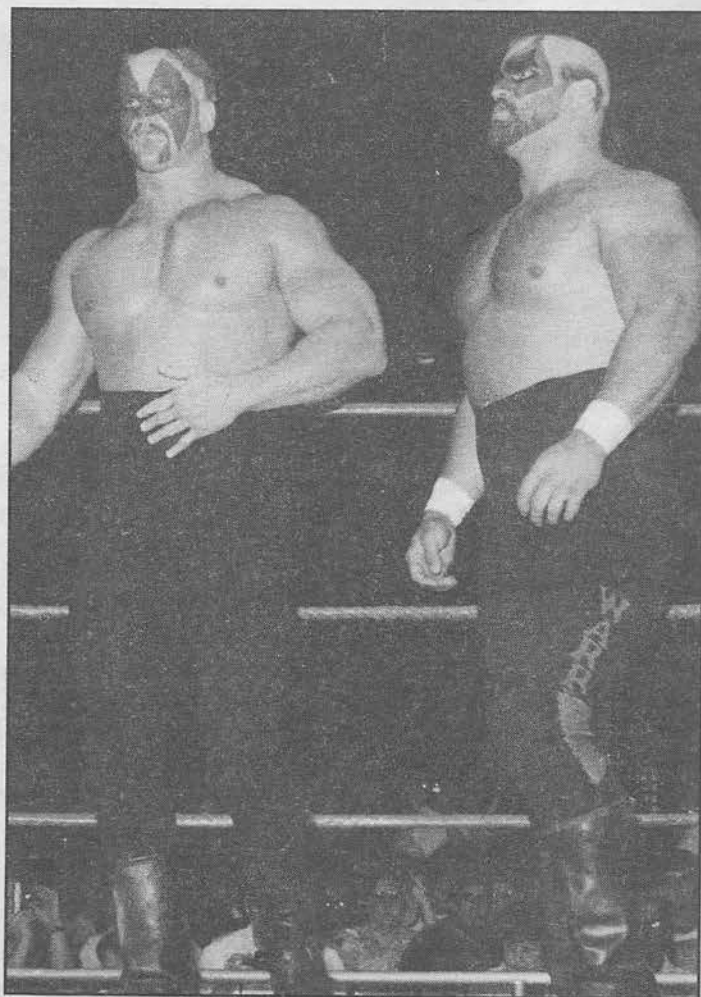
**Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor**

**G**ot out of Japan a few weeks before the big quake and made it a point to note on my calendar that coming back here in the near future might be a big mistake. Then again, I've been saying that for a long time. A reporter has to go where the news is taking place and I had an inkling something big might hap-

pen here, so I came. More than an inkling, actually. I got a call from a newspaper buddy at one of the wire services in Tokyo and he told me there was a rumor going around that The Road Warriors were getting back together. As is usually the case when it comes to daily scribes, he was overplaying the story to make it bigger than it really was, but it still was important. Hawk and Animal are back together, but not as a team, at least not yet. Hawk was wrestling Scott Norton here and Animal showed up in his corner. Once that happened, it was no surprise when Animal interfered three or four times and helped Hawk get the win. Afterward, Hawk talked about how happy he was with his solo career, but then hinted that Animal was ready to make The Road Warriors a team again. Well, he

**TOKYO, JAPAN**

did more than hint. He said it, flat out: "It looks like Animal is about ready to come back, so we'll have to give a lot of thought to our futures together." Shouldn't be much thought when you really think about it. Hawk and Animal go together and if they've been paying attention, they'll notice the pickings are pretty slim in both WCW and the WWF these days. Maybe the Steiners noticed, too, because they began negotiations with WCW and signed on the dotted line with WCW only a couple of days later. Put the Steiners, the Warriors, and The Nasty Boys in one federation with The Heavenly Bodies and you have the makings of a damn good roster. Eric Bischoff, an executive from WCW, was here tonight, too, which was enough to set tongues wagging,



**THE ROAD WARRIORS**

but Bischoff wasn't in the mood to be interviewed. He saw me standing there with a pencil in my hand and headed straight for the nearest exit. Memo to Saks: Yes, there should've been credit for frequent-flier miles for two people and, yes, the bill for two rooms in the Hilton is correct. Take the other one out of my expenses.

**H**aving no creativity is one thing, but lacking promotional instinct is just about inexcusable in this sport. WWF President Jack Tunney, who makes one bad decision after another, recently turned down a request by both Alundra Blayze and Bull Nakano to compete in the Royal Rumble. Supposedly, sources close to both wrestling dames denied the report, but I have it on pretty good record from people who know that Nakano and Blayze asked, and Tunney said no. Big mistake. Listen, I've never been one to parade around calling for women's rights, and the bra-burners had better find another person to pick on, but if Nakano and Blayze want to wrestle, let them wrestle. Besides, Nakano's bigger than The Kid and Blayze is a better wrestler than Diesel, which says something pretty sad about the current state of affairs in the WWF. I'll take Blayze over Bundy any day of the week. At least she's got a pretty nice set of gams (that means legs, Brandi). By the way, Niece, nice picture of you in that March issue.

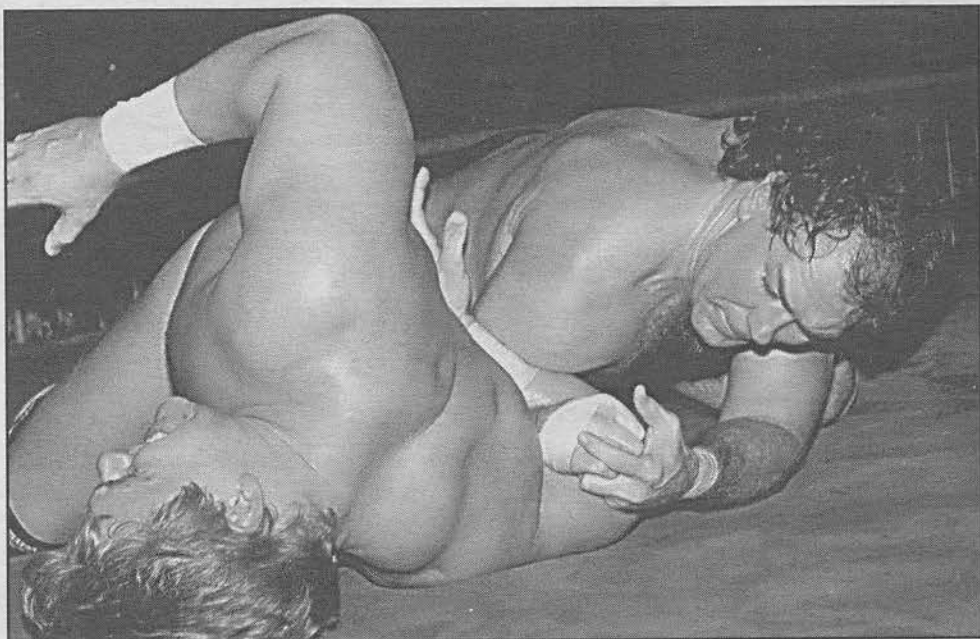
**A**lways had a lot of respect for the Armstrong family, one of the strongest

wrestling families in the world, but you have to wonder if "Bullet" Bob has all his faculties together, considering his recent decision to let The Heavenly Bodies back into Smoky Mountain Wrestling. Not that the Bodies aren't exciting wrestlers. It's Armstrong's reasoning that struck me as a little odd. Said Armstrong: "Jim Del Ray and Tom Prichard have assured me that they will conduct themselves honorably." Sure. That's like the wolf saying he won't eat the three little pigs. Jimmy Del Ray and Tom Prichard are about as trustworthy as a female editor with a red pencil, and that's not saying much. Talked to Bob after the decision and he said, "You know, Matt, after a while, you just come to trust your instincts. For some reason, I trust those boys. I think they're going to turn their lives around." Sure. The next thing you know, Jim Cornette'll be managing The Rock 'n' Roll Express.

**S**ome fans wouldn't know a great wrestling match if it was happening right before

their eyes. Tully Blanchard returned to the mat for one night in ECW recently and wrestled Shane Douglas and the fans never stopped chanting "Boring! Boring!" from the time the match started. Seems to me that these fans don't know what real wrestling's all about. They want to see chairs flying and blood gushing. Well, in my book, Blanchard vs. Douglas was about as good as it's going to get without having Lou Thesz and Buddy Rogers back in the ring. Times have changed, but wrestling is wrestling and Blanchard knows how to do it right. Blanchard said afterward that he was annoyed by the fans' reaction, which kind of surprised me. Blanchard's always had a smooth enough back that things roll right off his shoulder and down to the floor. Maybe he just thinks he deserves a little more respect, which he does. □

**Matt Brock's WrestleMania XI Forecast**  
**Michaels pins Diesel for the WWF World title.**



**DOUGLAS vs. BLANCHARD**



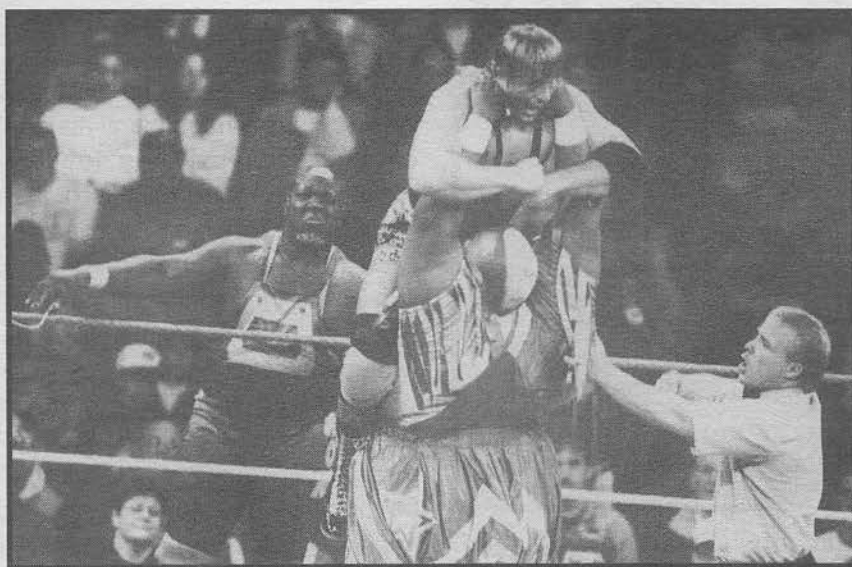
# Man On A Mission of Mayhem:

Photos by Bill Apter

THE NIGHT MABEL WENT MAD



When friendly rapper  
turned into a madman,  
**Owen Hart and Jim Neidhart**  
were the unfortunate victims.  
What if Mabel  
acted like this every night?



**By Dave Rosenbaum**

**J**IM NEIDHART OPENED his eyes and saw a 503-pound nightmare coming at him. Its face was nearly indiscernible, but its body was huge and wide, like a very large bull or a small truck. During the split second he had to think about his situation, Neidhart probably wondered, *Am I dreaming? Please tell me this is just a dream.*

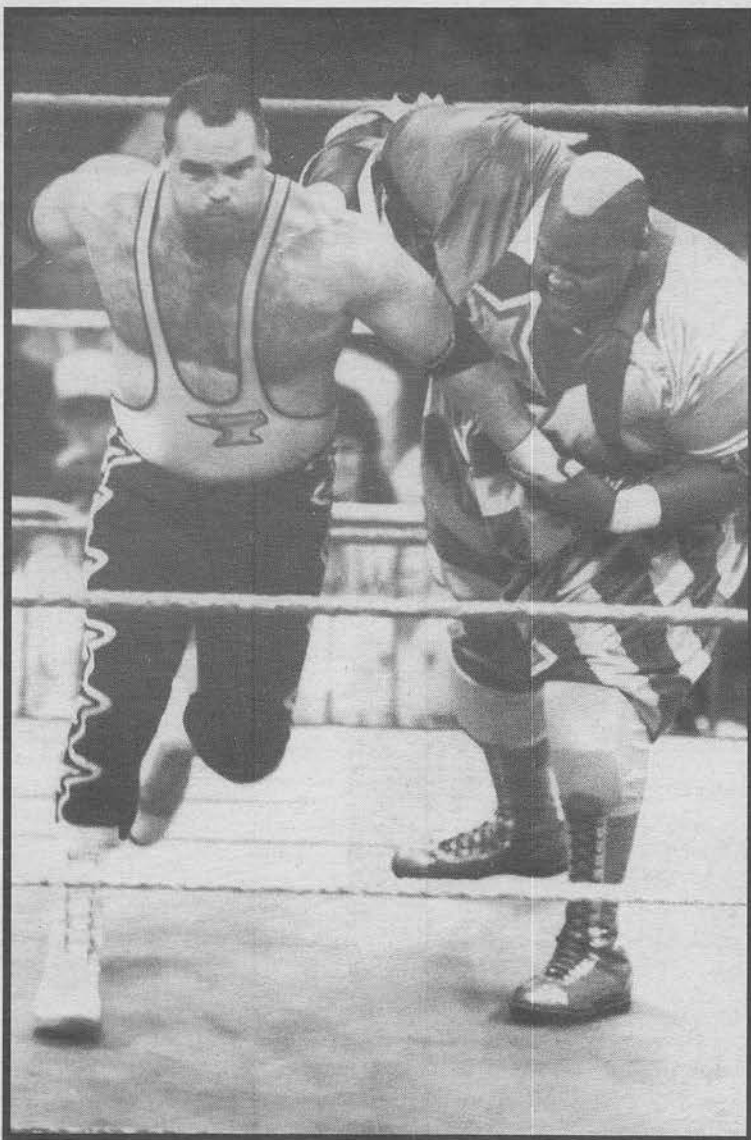
A split-second later, at the point of impact, Neidhart knew that what was happening to him was real. *Jurassic Park* is fake. Mabel is the real thing.

Then it was Owen's turn. His stomach turned as he felt two, huge, clammy hands wrapped around his throat and realized that this was no time for scientific artistry. Perhaps he even wanted to call his brother for help. Like it really would have mattered.

Mabel stands 6'10" and weighs 503 pounds; those kind of numbers can't be dealt with in a logical manner, especially when the Man on a

Mabel took care of a horrified Owen Hart with a choke-slam when the two went at it one-on-one (top left), and was just as efficient in taking Owen and Jim Neidhart out with a double clothesline (above). Nothing was going to stop him on this night!





Notice the look on Mabel's face as he whips Neidhart into the ropes. Even his partner, Mo, had only seen that expression once before ... and not for more than a few minutes.

Mission is stark raving mad. Something got under Mabel's skin, and he found two little boys on whom he could take out his troubles: Jim Neidhart and Owen Hart.

On the night Mabel cut the rap and went straight to the point, Neidhart and Hart just happened to be in the wrong place: a wrestling ring. In the opposite corner, Mo looked on in stunned disbelief as his much larger partner tore through their opponents. He wasn't sure if he should do something to stop Mabel—maybe after the police and investigators cleared the debris, they'd decide he was an accomplice to this

awful crime—or just let nature take its course. Nature, as in earthquakes, tornadoes, and hurricanes. And Mabel.

He didn't do anything. Mo held on to the tag rope and waited for Mabel to make a tag, which he knew wouldn't happen. There comes a time when an athlete gets on an unstoppable roll, and that's what was happening right here. Mabel was flattening everything in his path, making Neidhart and Hart wish they had chosen new professions, and showing everybody in the world that, when used properly, 503 pounds is not excessive weight.

He took them on two at a time, he took them on one at a time. You don't see Owen and Neidhart looking scared in too many matches these days. They looked absolutely terrified on this night. So did the referee. He tried to restrain Mabel, but probably feared the big man would turn to him once he was through with his two rulebreaking opponents.

Visions of Snoop Doggy Dog. Uzis firing and gang members dropping. Home boys cruising through the streets of Los Angeles and staking their claims to territory. The video MTV wouldn't show you. Is this what it looked like?

Men on a Mission were supposed to be authors of friendly rap.

Mabel choke-slammed Hart and then did the same to Neidhart. It was impossible for either to say which hurt most, the huge hands around their throats, or the bones rattling as their bodies slammed against the canvas. Mabel lifted Hart high above his head and dropped him to the mat. Actually, he did more than drop him—he threw him, as if he was trying to tear a Hart-sized hole through the canvas. Then it was

Neidhart's turn, and a laughable rally by Owen, as he punched and kicked Mabel. It was like using a hammer to knock down a brick building.

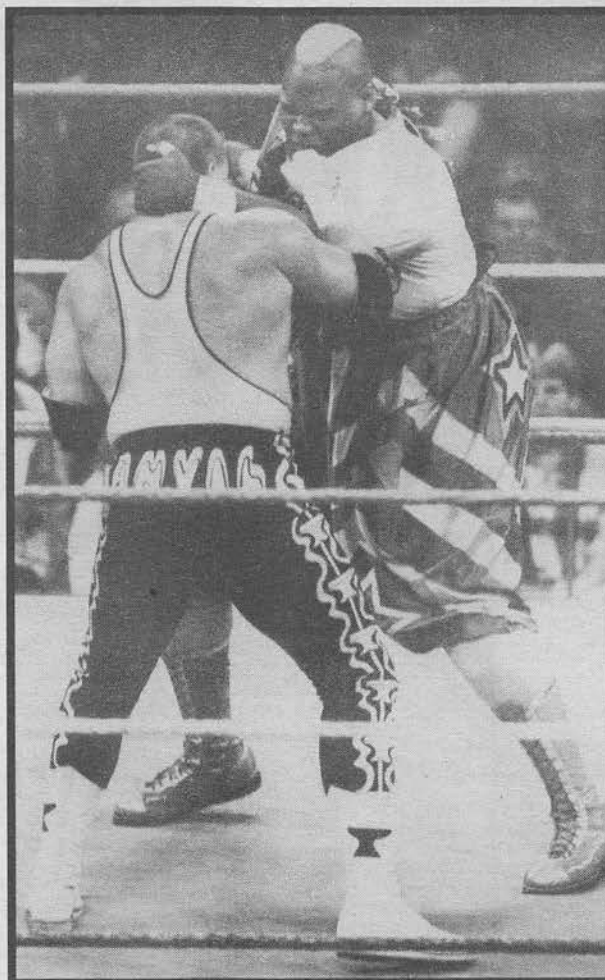
But it wasn't just Mabel's actions that were so terrifying. It was the look on his face. Calm was replaced by anger, a friendly demeanor by the eyes of a madman. Mo recalled later that he had only seen the look once or twice before, and only for a moment or two ... never for an entire match.

What we saw on that night, however, wasn't merely a different Mabel. It was a terrifyingly effective wrestler who, if turned loose every night, could make Men on a Mission the dominant tag team of the 1990s. Experts have often criticized Men on a Mission for not using their size to best advantage or channeling their emotions with a killer instinct. "Too friendly," "too happy," and "lacking the winning spirit" are all comments that have been used to describe Men on a Mission.

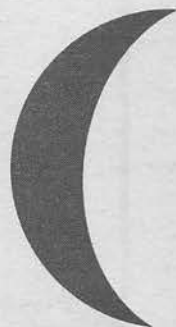
Perhaps Mabel was sending a message to Mo by saying, "Look at this. We could do this every night. God gave us these bodies. Let's use them."

Thus, bumping it with a trumpet becomes bumping it with a full brass band.

"If we saw this Men on a Mission every night," said former WWF World tag team champion Jacques Rougeau, who has competed against M.O.M., "there's no doubt people would stop talking about the WWF's weak tag team picture and maybe The Road Warriors and the Steiners would feel compelled to return to the WWF and try out the hot new team. This version of Men on a Mission would be tag team champions, and you'd be forgetting all about the other pretenders run-



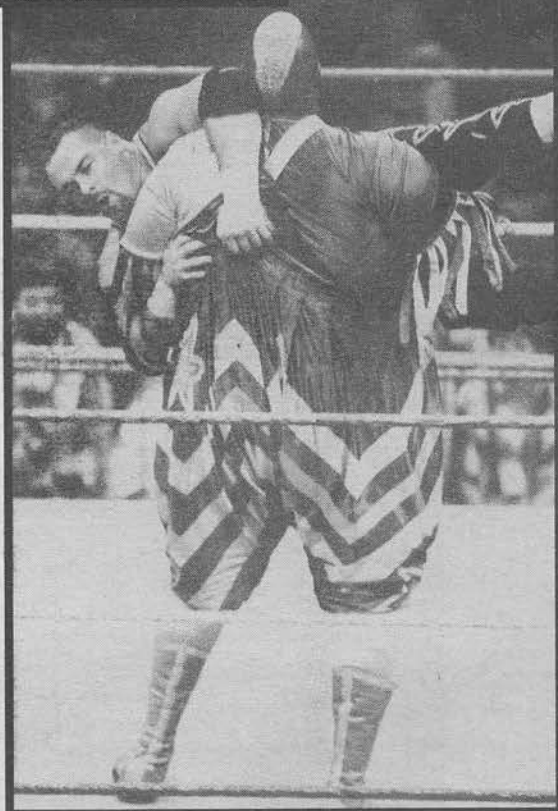
Normally, Neidhart loves it when an opponent is willing to trade punches with him. Not when it's Mabel firing right hand after right hand. He didn't know what hit him.



ning around. Fortunately for the rest of the federation, and unfortunately for Men on a Mission, this killer instinct was a fluke. It lasted one night."

But it was the wrong night for the bruised and battered Hart and Neidhart, who learned that the most dangerous part about wrestling a friendly 503-pound man is finding out that he's not so friendly anymore. □

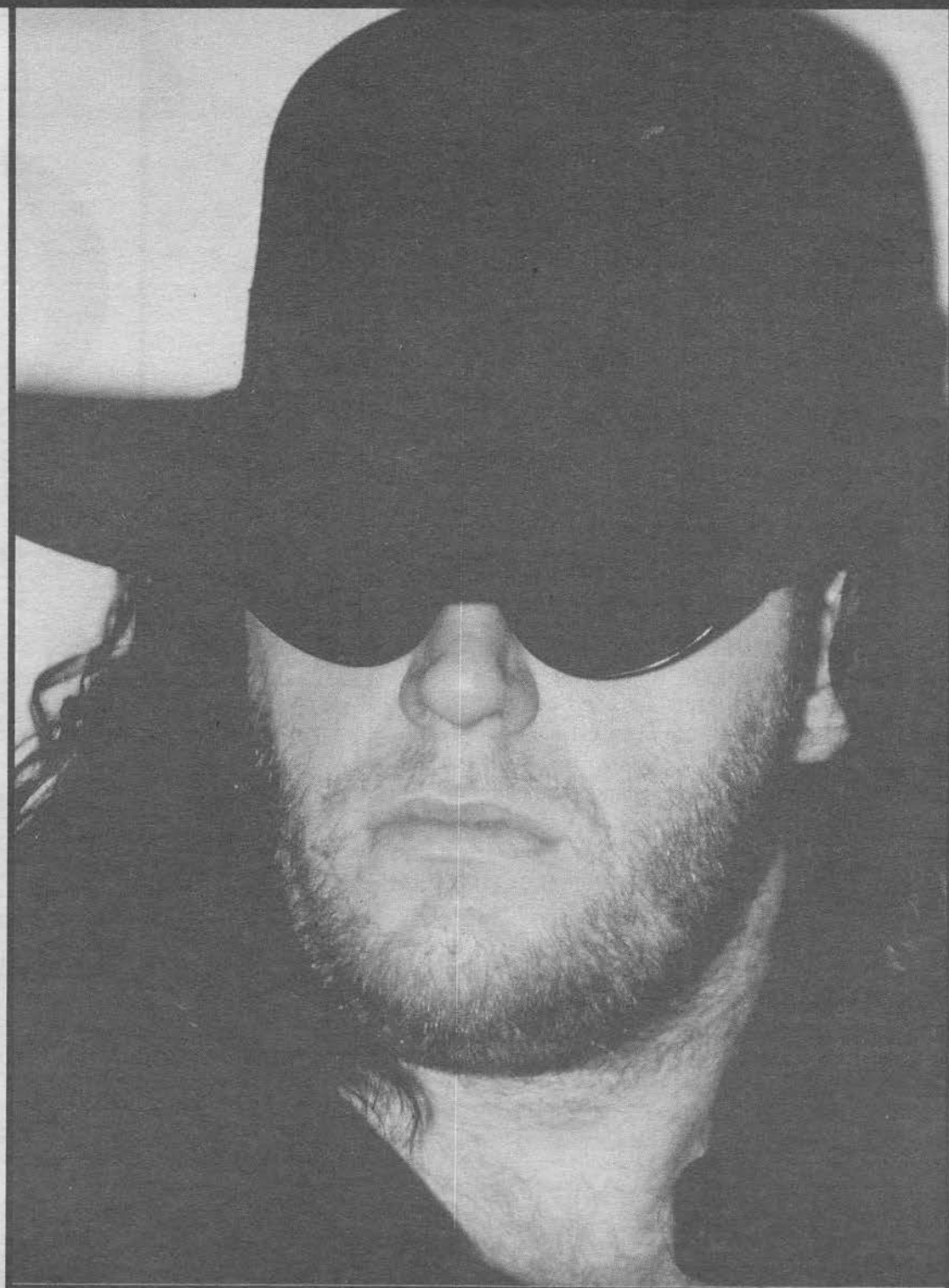
If it looks like Neidhart is holding on for dear life as Mabel sets him up for a powerslam, he is. By this time, he had found out just how much it hurts when a 503-pound monster comes crashing down on your chest.







# TALES FROM THE

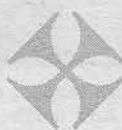


# UNDERTAKER'S CRYPT

By Dave Rosenbaum



Carrying battered opponents away from the ring (left) is strange. So is insisting on signing contracts by candlelight ... with gloves on (below). Not nearly as strange as some of the other phenomena involving Undertaker, though.



*For the past several years, The Undertaker has been the most mysterious man in the WWF. Whether as a fan favorite or rule-breaker, he has acted in ways foreign to any mortal man or woman. Last January, at the 1994 Royal Rumble, The Undertaker mysteriously rose from his casket and, presumably, into the hereafter. But he promised to return and did so that summer to defeat Ted DiBiase's impostor Undertaker. It was yet another strange incident in The Undertaker's unusual career. There have been so many strange incidents, in fact, that we decided to present some of the lesser-known ones—those that occurred outside the ring—in this unique compilation of ... Tales From The Undertaker's Crypt*

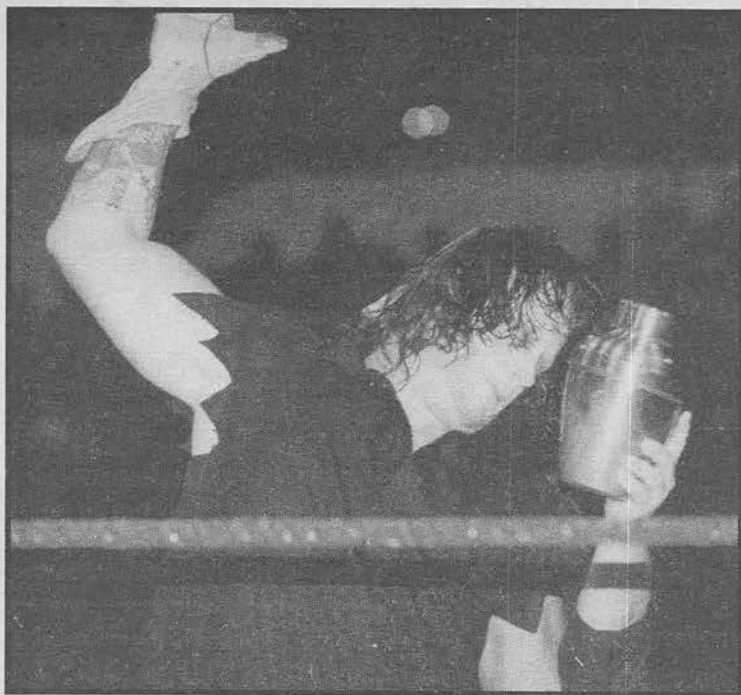


**I**N 1992, SHORTLY after WWF President Jack Tunney announced that the World title had been vacated, The Undertaker and manager Paul Bearer had a private meeting with federation officials.

One of the officials present, a man who we will allow to remain anonymous, described it as "the strangest meeting I've ever been at."

"He was very threatening," the official said. "He made it clear in





Maybe the contents of Undertaker's mysterious urn (above) would give us some clue about the man's bizarre powers. And maybe he called upon some of those powers in his matches against Yokozuna (right).

no uncertain terms that the people in the room would pay for their decision to take the belt away from him. Well, almost any wrestling official has heard those words before, but they had special impact when Undertaker said them. You'd know why if you ever shook his hand. It could be 95 degrees in a room, but his hand is always dry and cold."

As the official tells it, three of the five federation officials in the room had "unusual things" happen to them over the next four months.

"One of them had food poisoning, which isn't so unusual until you consider that he was having lunch in a restaurant with five other men, four of whom ordered the exact same dish," the official said. "But he was the only one that got sick."

Another official was examining the underside of the ring one night when, all of a sudden, the canvas collapsed onto his back.

"It was a scary moment," the official said. "And you know how

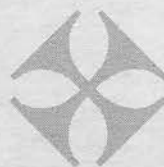
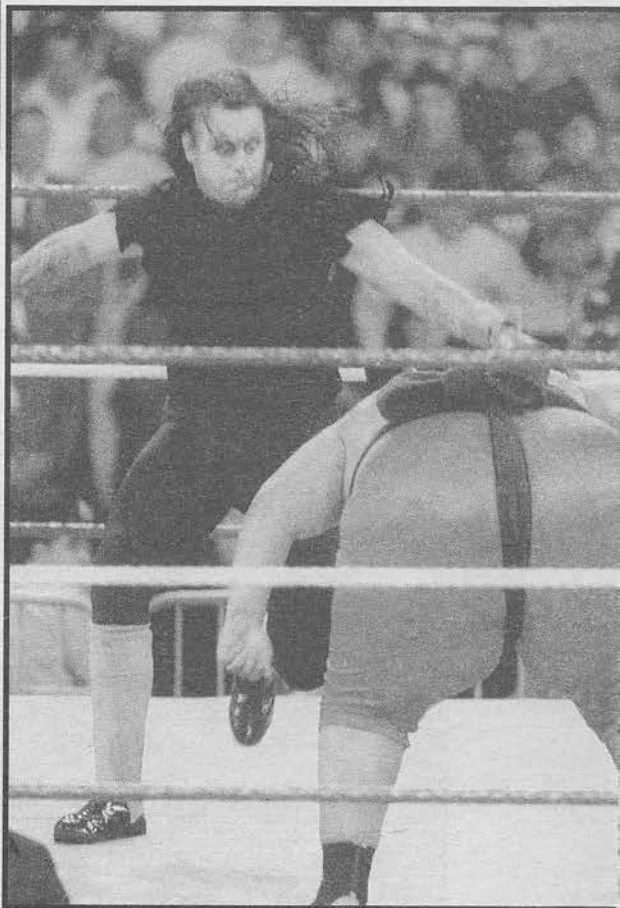
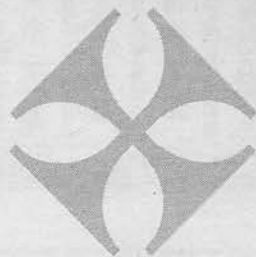
many other times I've seen that happen? None. Zero."

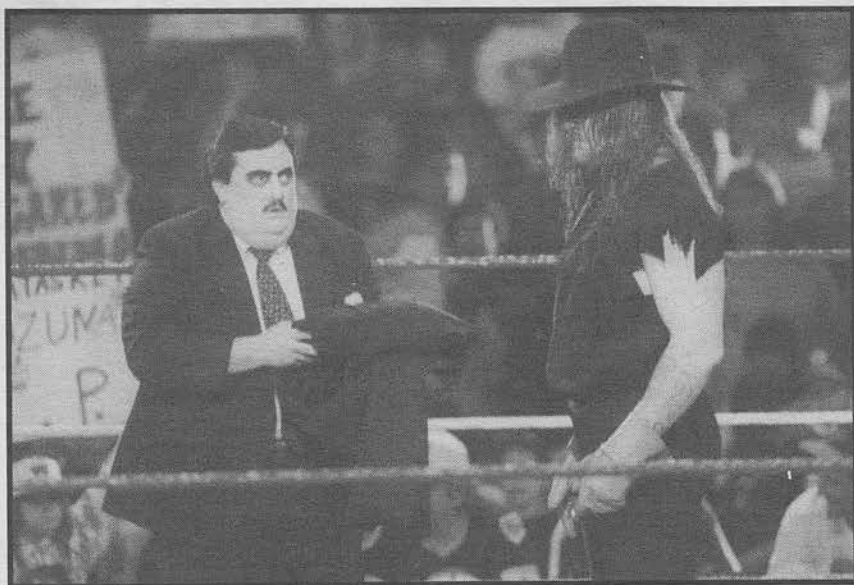
The third official—our anonymous official—said that over this three-month period, he went through four picture tubes on his TV set.

"Completely new tubes each time, and they all went blank," the official said. "But that's not the strange part. The strange part is that each time it happened on a Wednesday night at about 11:15, each time I was watching the news, and each time the channel mysteriously switched to HBO before going blank."

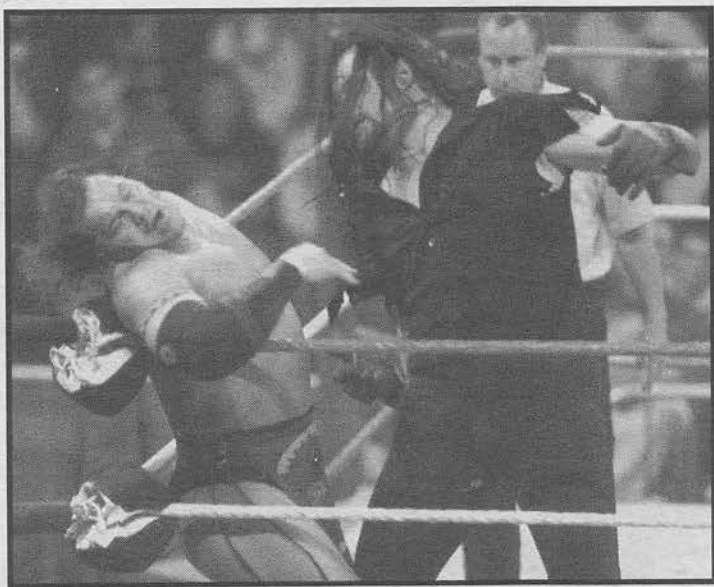
"Two things: The show on HBO was *Tales From The Crypt*. And I don't get HBO."

**T**HE PROVIDENCE CIVIC Center is a medium-sized arena in a medium-sized city, sim-





Only Paul Bearer (above) knows what it takes to control Undertaker. Tatanka (below) did anything but control the man from the dark side in their series of matches. He could one of the many wrestlers terrified of wrestling Undertaker.



ilar to many others in North America. Fans enter through one of several front entrances. The backside of the Civic Center faces a large cement wall and a high-

Undertaker in his casket, Undertaker emerged to the top of a giant TV screen in the arena and vowed to return.

Just about everybody considered this an imaginative stunt by Paul Bearer to scare Yokozuna and to add to Undertaker's aura of mystery.

But here's the strange thing: Nobody saw The Undertaker walk out of the building.

Think about that: Undertaker is a very striking 6'9", 328-pound man. Fans would have mobbed him had he walked out the front gate. Civic Center security guards would have noticed him had he walked out the employees' gate. Something else is strange: Every wrestler had to sign in and out. The Undertaker signed in, but he didn't sign out.

So how, exactly, did The Undertaker leave the Civic Center?

**T**HE UNDERTAKER HAS never been X-rayed.

The endorsement on his checks mysteriously disappears after the checks are cashed.

He often refuses to wrestle on Friday the 13th.

Bearer once told reporters that The Undertaker's home—he wouldn't say exactly where it is located—has plenty of illuminated lamps, but no electrical service.

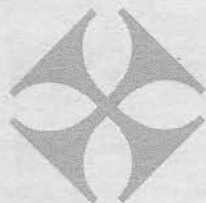
Just about every wrestler in the WWF has refused to wrestle The Undertaker; most eventually give in when the amount of their reimbursement is increased.

"It has nothing to do with trying to get more money out of the federation," one source said. "It's all a matter of fear."

A former WWF fan favorite told us that "when The Undertaker gets out of the shower, he's not even wet." □

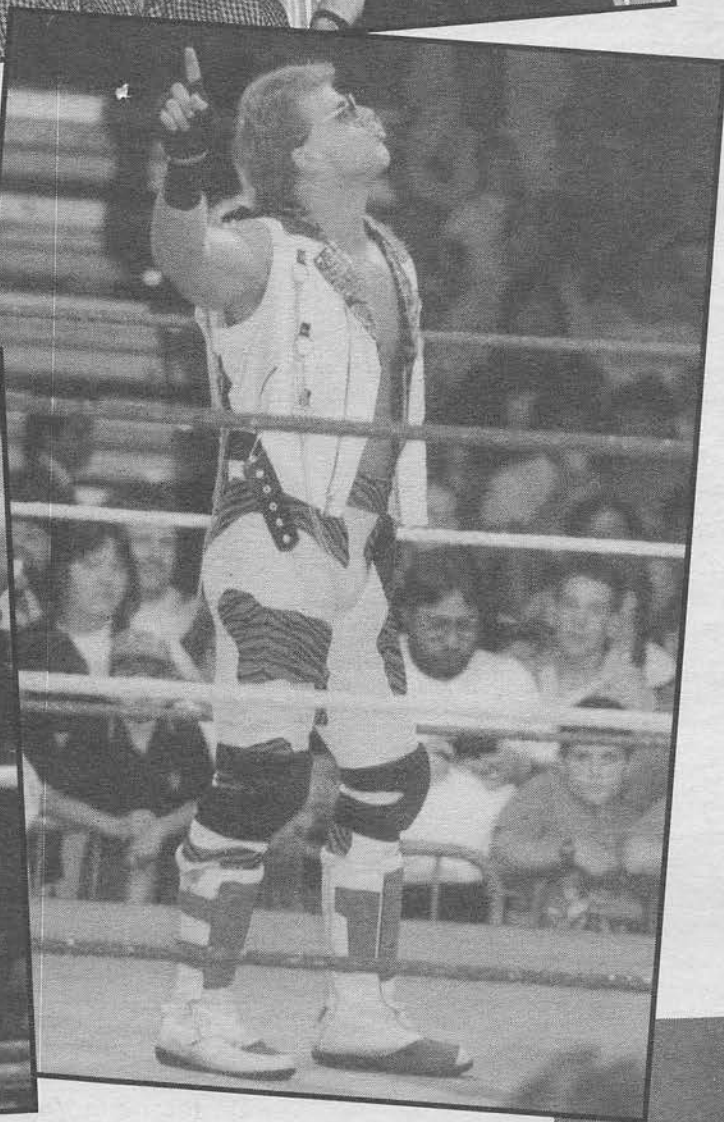
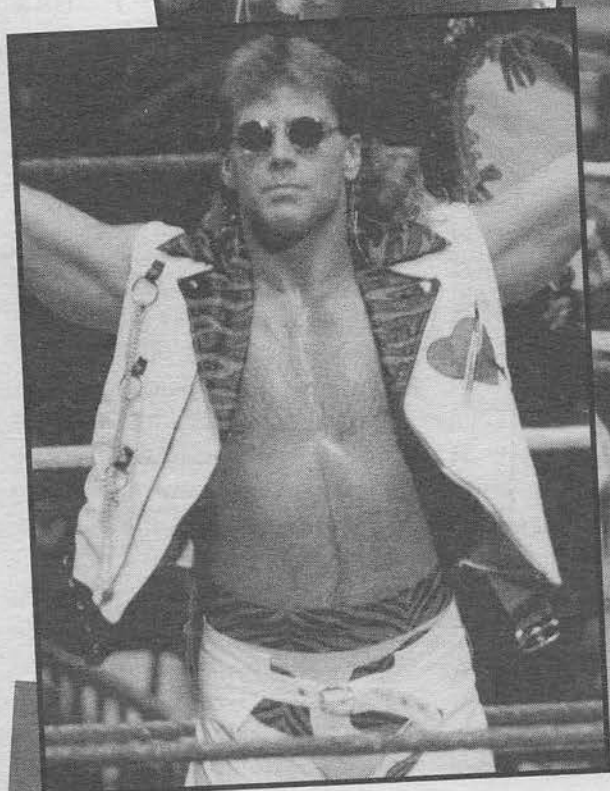
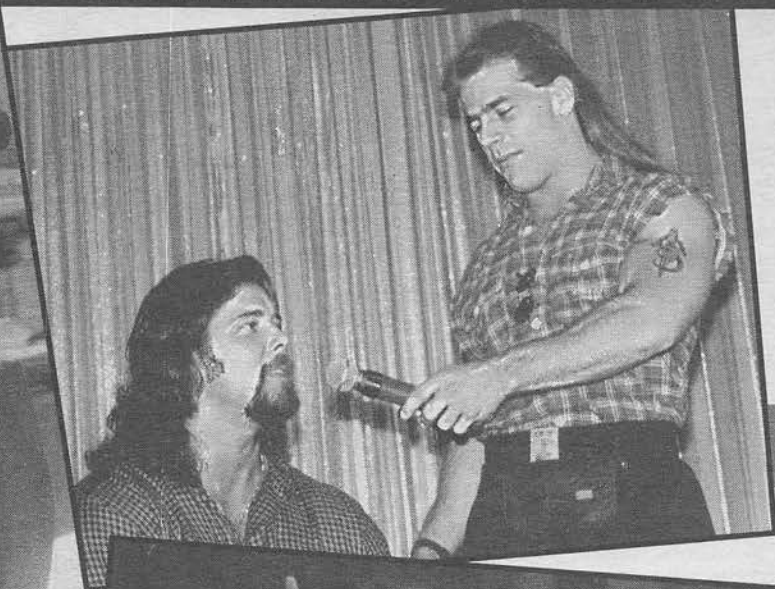
way. There's a security booth at the entrance and all arena workers and event staff, including athletes, pass through this gate. The arena itself has a main promenade. Enter through one of several gates and you'll walk either up or down to your seat. In other words, access is relatively limited.

On the night Yokozuna, Jim Cornette, Mr. Fuji, and a host of other rulebreakers buried The





# WRESTLEMANIA XI PREVIEW



Like a stripper  
taking off one piece of clothing at  
a time, Shawn Michaels never  
gives away too much of himself.  
Not until the day he wins his first  
world title will you see...

# SHAWN MICHAELS Exposed

By Liz Hunter

**I**N 1986, LONG before the incident that led to their split, Shawn Michaels and Marty Jannetty had a discussion that defined their careers. What was extraordinary about the conversation was the fact that it took place during a postmatch interview session with reporters and played out as if there was nobody there.

A reporter happened to ask The Midnight Rockers what their specific plans were for going after the AWA World tag team title. To which Jannetty responded, "We're there, any time, any place. We're soaring to the top and nobody can stop us."

Michaels stared at Jannetty as if his partner had two heads.

"Wait a second, dude," Michaels said. "I thought we agreed to take things one step at a time and not look too far ahead."

The conversation went back and forth for about 10 minutes with Jannetty insisting the Rockers demand title shots from AWA President Stanley Blackburn and Michaels applying the brakes. Finally cognizant

of the reporters surrounding them, Michaels stopped and said, "Sorry, guys, we just got a little caught up."

Still arguing, Michaels and Jannetty walked into the training room, which was off-limits to reporters. Seven months later, the Rockers defeated Buddy Rose and Doug Somers for the AWA World tag team title. It was the start of Jannetty's third year in the sport, Michaels' second. Their futures were bright.

But perhaps this long-forgotten conversation gives some clue as to why Jannetty is now an occasional entrant in the "Where Are They Now" file, while Michaels is one of the hottest figures in pro wrestling. Like a striptease artist who knows not to show too much at once—you'll lose your audience if you do—or a woman who knows that the best way to keep a man interested is to not let him get what he wants, Michaels has tantalized fans to the point at which the average female WWF fan goes into a tizzy whenever he appears in the ring, or even at ringside.

In managing his career, Michaels has shown the patience to take things slowly and not go after too



# WRESTLEMANIA XI PREVIEW

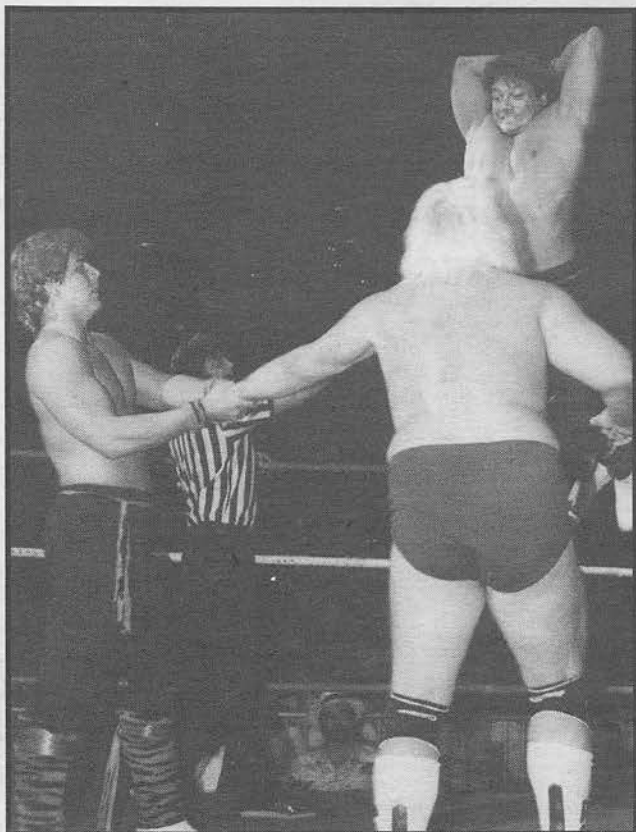
much at a time. As a result, he has avoided burnout and peaked at a time when most wrestlers are starting to feel the effects of injuries and travel fatigue.

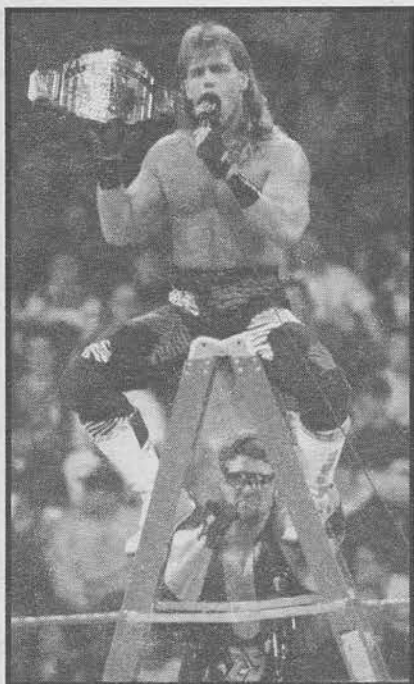
Michaels has taken a grueling "here today, gone tomorrow" sport and turned it into a marathon run to the top.

There's no better example than the present. In one year, Diesel, Michaels' former bodyguard, won the WWF World tag team title, the Intercontinental title, and the World heavyweight title. It was a whirlwind run that left many fans asking, "Why couldn't Michaels do the same thing?"

If asked, however, Michaels would tell you he's perfectly capable of doing what Diesel did ... and so much more. He'd also tell you there's a very good chance Diesel will be out of the sport in a year or two—a wonder gone bad—while he'll still be collecting a big paycheck

Early in his career, Shawn Michaels honed his craft by wrestling in tag teams. Michaels and Jannetty beat Buddy Rose (right) and Doug Somers for the AWA belts in 1986. A few years later, Shawn showed he was the better man on his own by dominating his partner in an intense feud (below).





Michaels has climbed the ladder of success in the Intercontinental division twice and always tells everyone how great he is (above). He is already being compared to Ric Flair (below). A few world titles and he could be in the "Nature Boy's" class.

and wrestling the best in the world, probably as World champion.

"Michaels has the right idea," said retired former WWF World and Intercontinental champion Pedro Morales. "There's definitely a temptation to do too much too soon and burn yourself out with fatigue and injuries. Michaels knows that this is a business and the longer your career lasts, the longer you remain at your peak, and the more you stretch out your earning power. I wouldn't be surprised if Michaels wins a world title in a year or two and then runs off about 10 years of championships."

Many people suspected that the great Ric Flair wasn't that unhappy when one or two of his 10 world title reigns ended. Losses gave him a break from a grueling schedule; he has always known how important it is to pace yourself. Michaels, often compared to Flair in terms of ability and attitude, has taken notes from the "Nature Boy."

Let's see how Michaels has slowly revealed his awesome talents:

In 1985, he was a 19-year-old fresh out of high school when he won the Central States TV title from "Sailor" Art Crews. One year later, Michaels followed Jannetty to the AWA and concentrated on their tag team. A few years after that, Michaels and Jannetty took the next step by graduating to the WWF. The Rockers were the fastest rising tag team in the world.

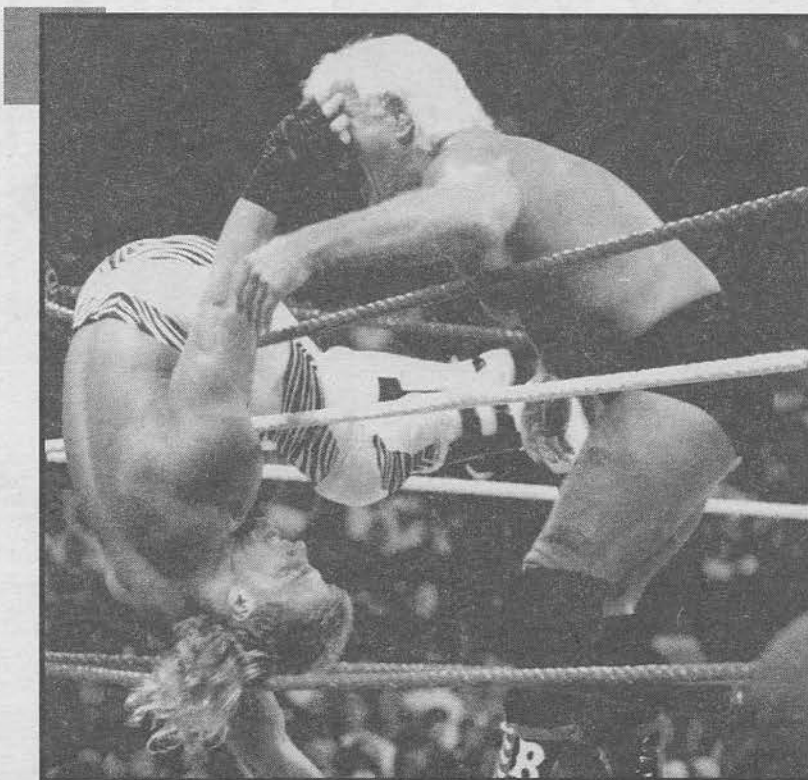
Michaels, however, had no intention of being pigeonholed as a tag team competitor. He had solo success on his mind, so his next step was to break up with Jannetty and establish a career of his own. He did so and won the Intercontinental title from Davey Boy Smith in late-1992.

To most people, that set up Michaels for a direct run at the WWF World title. It never happened. Michaels lost the title to Jannetty, got it back for a few months, then eventually settled into a World tag team title run with Diesel. Since the split with Diesel, Michaels has been seen more often holding a microphone than opponents.

The next step seems obvious. Michaels, many say, is rested and finally ready for a serious run at the World title. Michaels has the ability to beat Diesel.

But he isn't quite ready yet. Maybe he will be ready at WrestleMania XI, maybe not until this summer. No one knows for sure, and Michaels isn't saying.

One thing is certain: Many rookies will come and go before Michaels puts away his wrestling trunks for good. There's time. Plenty of good time. □





**DOWNSIZING**

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**DIESEL**

# A Wrestler's Guide To Toppling The Seven-Footer

Even his most bitter enemies admit it will take a mighty effort to unseat Diesel, who is determined never to let anyone cut him down to size!

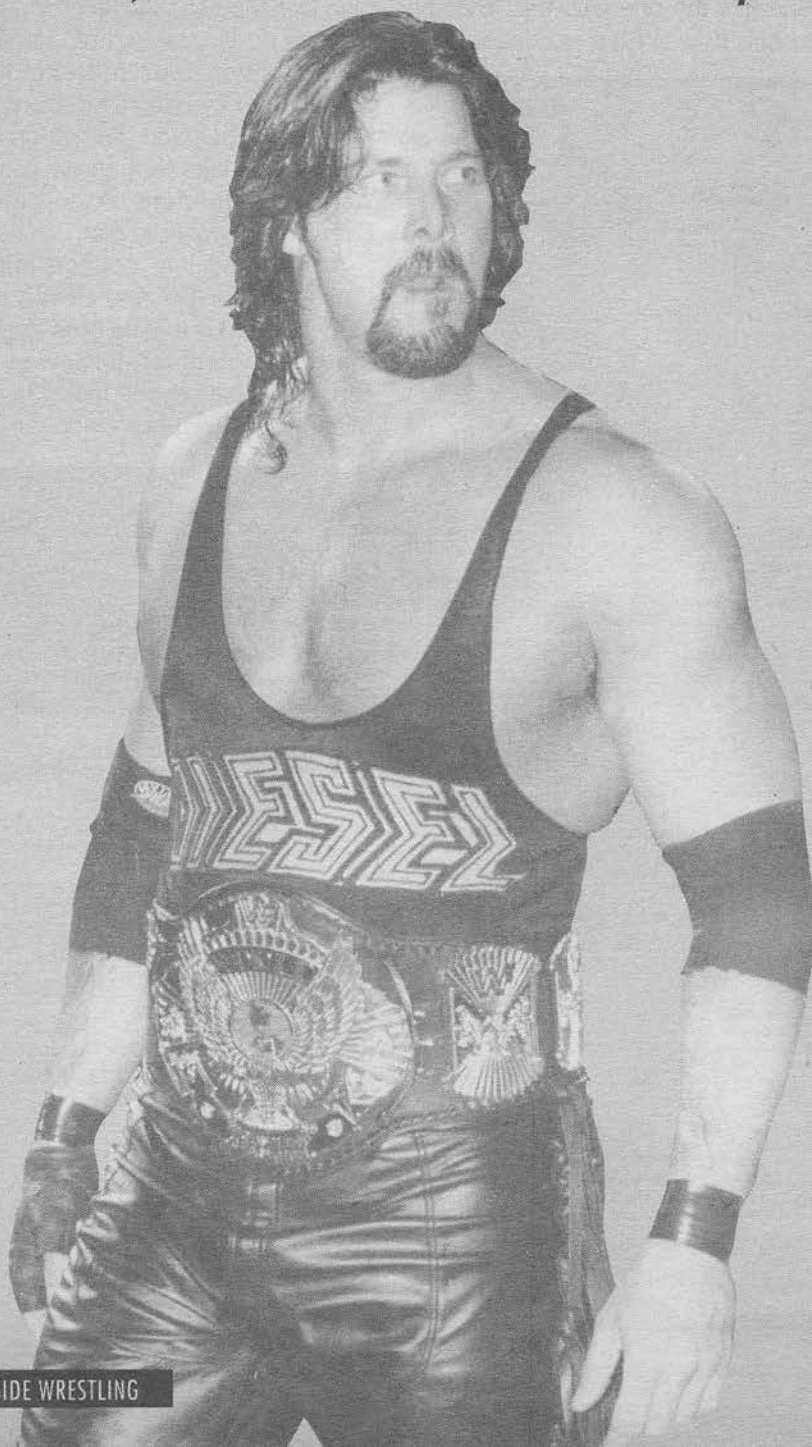
By Andy Rodriguez

**M**ICHAELS AND Backlund. More specifically, Shawn Michaels and Bob Backlund. It's hard to picture those two together. Even Backlund the rule-breaker has little in common with Michaels, who prides himself on being as outlandish as he possibly can. Truly an odd couple.

What unites them is very simple: an intense desire to defeat Diesel. Michaels thinks he can help Backlund win against Michaels' former bodyguard. Backlund believes Michaels can provide the help he'll need to vanquish the man who captured the WWF World belt from him just three days after he won it from Bret Hart.

"Shawn is convinced he has the formula for beating Diesel," said Jim Cornette. "He wants to see big Diesel take a big fall and he'll gladly help Backlund accomplish that." Not surprisingly, Michaels is keeping his plan a secret. He has even tried selling those "secrets" to the highest bidder. But for now, he is content to share his knowledge with Backlund.

That is about to change. Michaels is tired of standing at ringside watching others try to bring down the giant. He thinks he is the man who can ultimately destroy Diesel. And he will get his





# WRESTLEMANIA XI PREVIEW



Davey Boy Smith went right after Diesel in his matches against the big man in WCW. That's what all of Diesel's opponents should do, according to Jerry Lawler, who points out that Diesel needs to get the upper hand early.

truly believe he learned enough from his former mentor to beat him? Diesel's friends and supporters answer yes. They say he's eager to put to rest all the doubts.

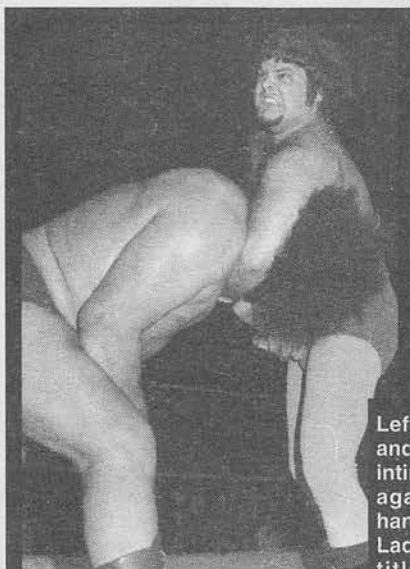
"Everybody who hates Diesel is just waiting for him to fall," said Barry Windham, who remembers him from his days in WCW. "Hey, Diesel's got plenty of confidence. Shawn's the one who has to come to him now. When he does, he—

and everybody else—will find out how great Diesel has become."

There are a lot of folks in this sport, though, who aren't shy about telling how they would go about taking down Diesel. When the topic is the seven-foot behemoth, there are opinions to be found everywhere.

"With a guy that tall," offered 6'4" former WWF Intercontinental champion Don Muraco, "the first thing you have to do is take him off his feet. Being seven-feet tall, he has tremendous leverage over everyone he faces. When you get him on the ground and take that away, you've won three-quarters of the battle. Everything flows from that."

"One thing I've noticed about Diesel," said WWF and USWA star Jerry Lawler, "is that he likes to grab the upper hand as quickly as he can. I'd advise anyone facing him—Michaels, Backlund, whoever—to

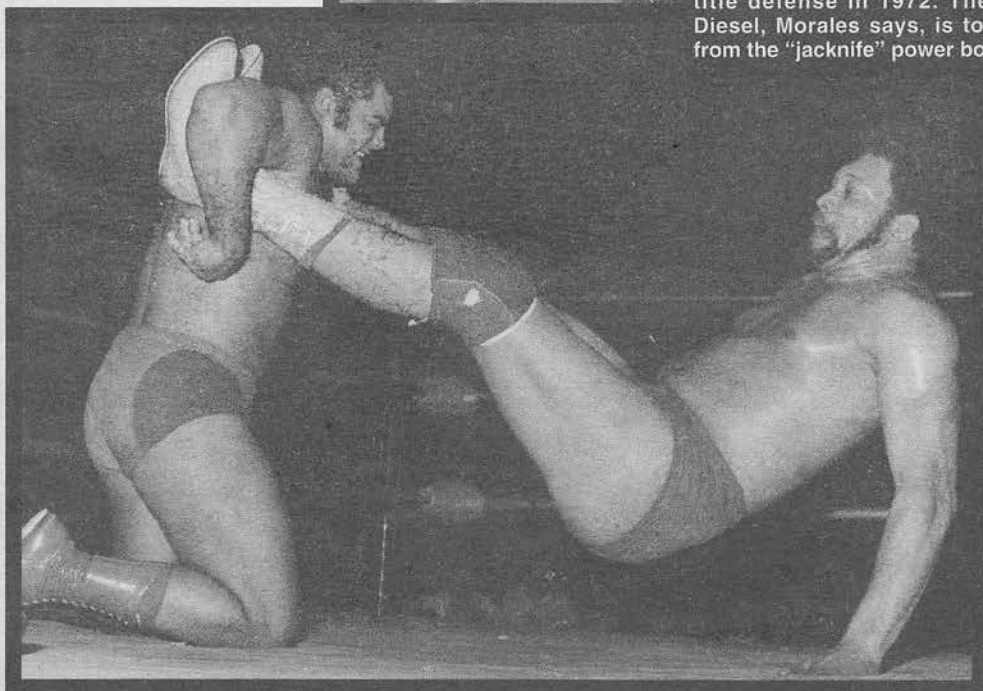


Left: Jerry Lawler gave away almost a foot-and-a-half to Andre the Giant, but was never intimidated. He says a man has a good chance against Diesel if he takes the early upper hand. Below: Pedro Morales brings 6'9" Ernie Ladd down to his level during a WWF World title defense in 1972. The key to beating Diesel, Morales says, is to keep from away from the "jackknife" power bomb.

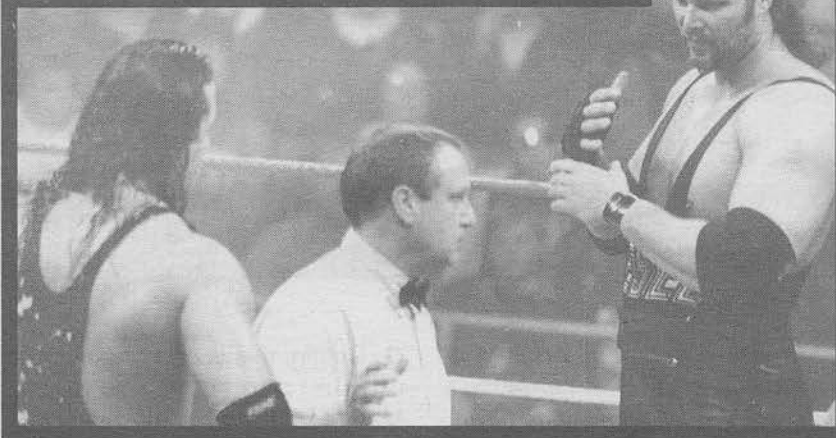
chance at WrestleMania XI on April 2 in Hartford, Connecticut.

"It's what Shawn wanted all along," said one friend. "He got a kick out of helping Backlund beat on him, but he wants to finish the job himself."

The question is this: Does Diesel



It's hard not to notice the 13-inch difference in height between Hart and Diesel. Lou Thesz says, however, that Diesel is easily outwrestled, while Pedro Morales feels the seven-footer is beatable if an opponent can avoid the "jackknife."



take the initiative. Go in that ring like a house of fire and take it to the big man. He'll be so stunned, he won't ever recover."

"He has that 'jackknife' power bomb, which is one of the most effective finishing moves I've ever seen," offered Pedro Morales, who, at 5'11½", usually defended his WWF World and Intercontinental titles against much taller men. "The key is doing all you can to keep him from catching you with it. After that, his repertoire is pretty limited. Your chances of winning go up dramatically if you avoid that one move."

Lou Thesz also cited Diesel's lack of pure wrestling skill as a weakness.

"I don't care how big he is," said the 6'2" six-time NWA champion. "The man can be outwrestled. If any opponent concentrates on wrestling—not brawling—he has a fairly decent shot at getting his hand raised. True, Diesel beat Backlund, who's one of the greatest scientific wrestlers ever, but he did that in eight seconds. Let's see Diesel really get tested against a great scientific grappler like Michaels. I'd advise an opponent to pick an arm or leg and just keep working on it."

Mike Newkirk, a fan from Madison, Wisconsin, who claims to be a big supporter of Diesel, claimed he had the answer: intimidation.

"Diesel acts tough," Newkirk said, "but it seems to me that when he gets into trouble, he's kind of a wimp. Back him down right at the start of the match and maybe he'll be a little less determined."

Broadcaster Jim Ross, who has seen many of Diesel's matches in both the WWF and WCW, says the champion is a very underrated grappler. The key to defeating him, says Ross, is avoiding him.

"If I were managing Michaels," he offered, "I'd tell him to utilize his quickness, to run around the ring and force Diesel to chase him. Once he gets you in his grip, it's over. Force him to chase you, and you'll tire him out."

"Now some may say Diesel wouldn't be doing much chasing," Ross continued, "because he thinks anyone who challenges him has to be the aggressor to score a pin. From what I've observed, however, Diesel doesn't wrestle not to lose. He's aggressive. He wants to win, so he'll go after his foe."

Cactus Jack, who competed

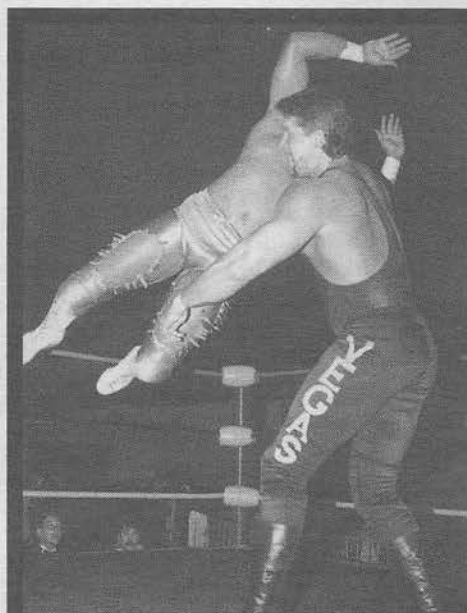
against Diesel in WCW, says he'd take advantage of the "fact" (his words) that the champion is "brainless."

"Hey, I'm not exactly Mr. Science," said the 6'4" brawler, "but Diesel isn't too bright. He can be tricked easily, and that doesn't necessarily mean you have to break any rules. Just go in there and stick to your game plan and that's good enough. He thinks everybody wants to get in the ring and go toe-to-toe with him. When they don't do that, he gets confused. It doesn't take much to get him confused."

Clearly, there are a lot of views on how to take down the seven-foot giant.

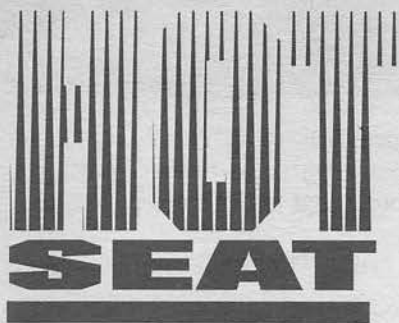
The most important view, however, still belongs to Michaels. At WrestleMania, we may discover just how valuable Shawn's "secrets" are.

Or maybe he'll take some hints from our experts. □



2 Cold Scorpio kept Diesel off-balance by using his quickness and aerial skills. Shawn Michaels, who gives away 12 inches and 122 pounds to Diesel, will have to do the same if he is to slay his former bodyguard.





# DUSTIN RHODES

## "NOBODY'S HARDER ON ME THAN ME!"

**T**HE YEAR 1993 ended on a bad note for Dustin Rhodes. His second U.S. title reign was curtailed when "Stunning" Steve Austin defeated him in a controversial best-of-three-falls match. Austin won the first fall by disqualification, which should have kept Rhodes from losing the belt. But when Austin pinned Rhodes in the second fall, the title was awarded to Austin.

Nobody suspected that the loss would send Rhodes into a tailspin, but Rhodes didn't win a single title in 1994 and at times dropped out of the WCW top 10. He wasted a good portion of the year battling Col. Parker's Stud Stable; the year became a bust for Dustin when he was left off the Starrcade card.

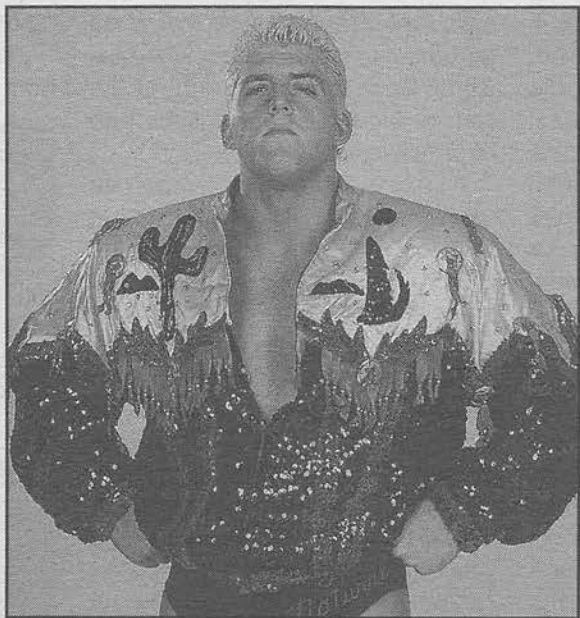
Dusty was so alarmed by his son's slump that he sent a public message to Dustin in the May 1995 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling*.

"Step it up, son—you're losing your edge," Dusty warned Dustin; the story embarrassed him.

Dustin is the first to admit that 1994 was a disappointment. When the year began, most people expected him to make a run at the World title. It was the reasonable next step for a two-time U.S.

champion. It seemed certain that Dustin would follow in his father's footsteps and win the World title.

Perhaps it's a blessing that less is expected of him in 1995. Hulk Hogan is WCW World champion, and Dustin isn't considered a serious contender. Big Van Vader, whom Dustin feuded with toward



the end of 1994, is in hot pursuit of Hogan's belt. Where does that leave Dustin? Waiting.

Dustin has big things planned for 1995. Senior Writer Dave Rosenbaum discussed those plans and Dustin's reaction to Dusty's comments in this exclusive interview.

**Q:** Dustin, this is one of our most unusual "Hotseat" interviews. Maybe you should tell the readers just why.

**A:** Because I called you instead of you calling me and requested this interview, then I jumped on the next plane out of Atlanta to Philadelphia and met you guys right here where we're sitting, in your office. You know, I'm awfully hungry. Think we could order in some lunch?

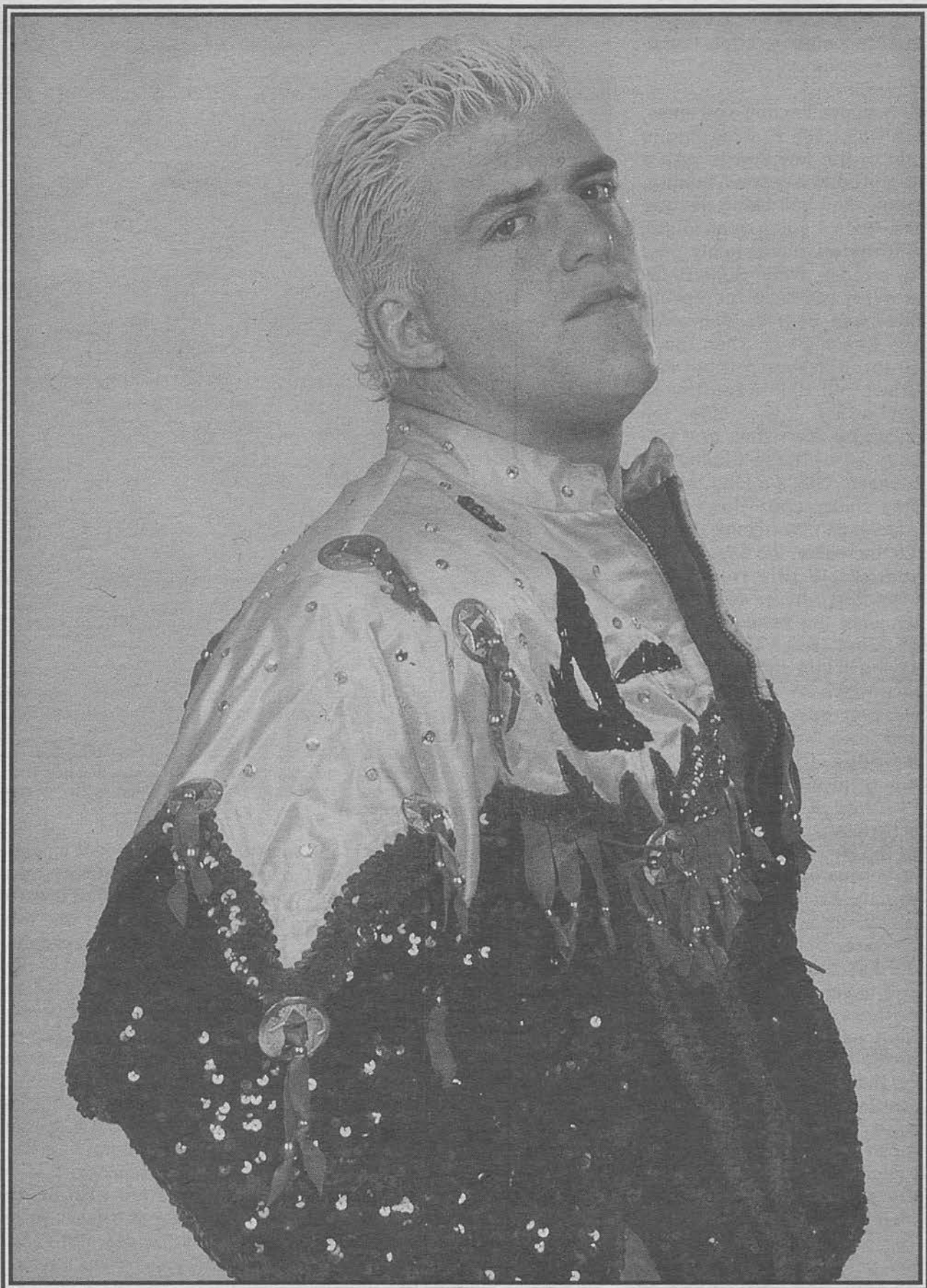
**Q:** Sure, right away. I'll have the secretary send out for a few pizzas ...

**A:** Uh, think we could get something a little healthier? I'm in training, you know. How about this: You have the pizza, I'll have an order of spaghetti marinara.

**Q:** Sounds fine with me. Anyway, back to the subject. I think I have a pretty good idea of why you asked for this interview. I

guess it has something to do with that story that appeared in the May issue of *Sports Review Wrestling*. Did it bother you?

**A:** No, it didn't bother me. I understand what my father was saying and I agreed with a lot of it. But when he suggested—actually, when he said—





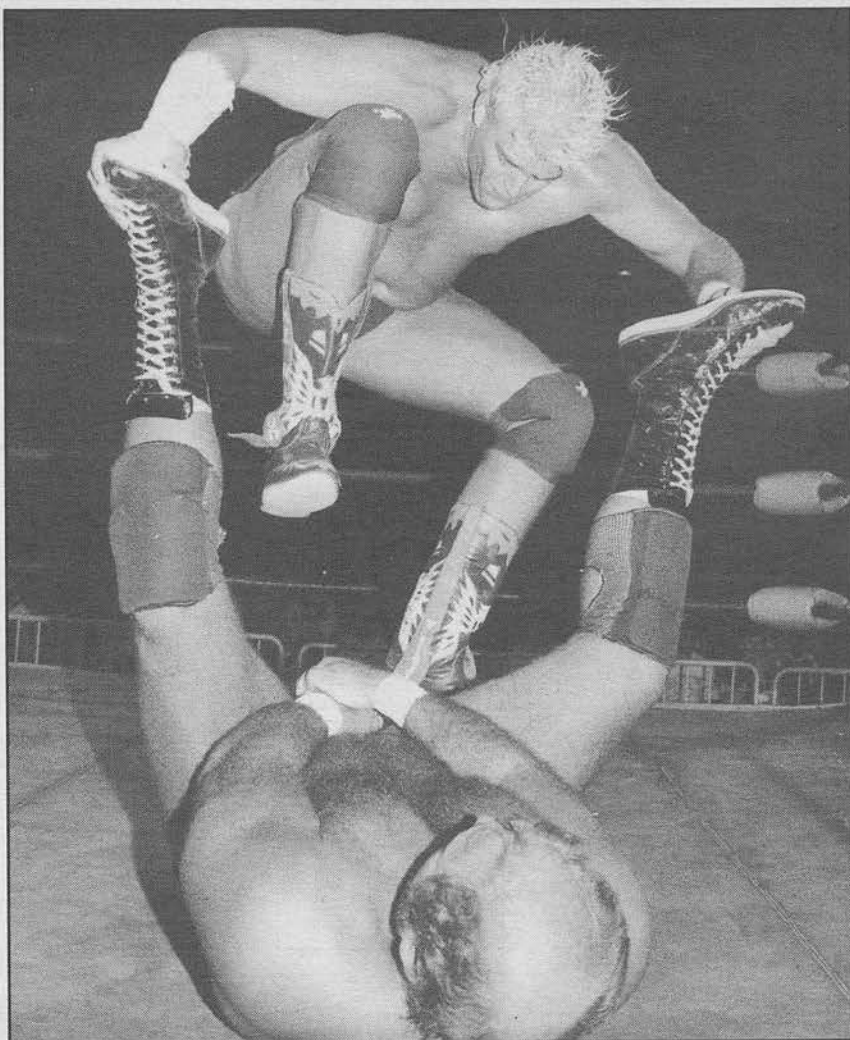
that I'm losing my edge, I totally disagreed with that.

**Q:** Why?

**A:** Because I'm not. You know, the way I see it, wrestling is one of the few sports with a continuous season—boxing, tennis, and golf being the others. You're going year-round, and there's never really time for a break. When SuperBrawl is over, it's time for Spring Stampede, then it's Slamboree and Beach Blast. Then that's all through and you get Fall Brawl and Halloween Havoc right on top of each other, followed by Starrcade, and you have all of those Clashes in between. That's a long time to stay sharp, and I don't think anyone can. You know, I think it's the reason the days of five-year world title reigns are over. You'll never see it again because the schedule is too grueling. Anyway, what I'm saying is that during the natural course of a year, every wrestler goes through highs and lows. I don't think I lost my edge, I just think I was going through a natural low. I've had a pretty grueling schedule.

**Q:** Still, that Starrcade snub must have been very disappointing to you, especially considering your father's history at Starrcade.

**A:** Sure, but what my father did has nothing to do with it and never did. The thing that bothered me was that Starrcade is the biggest event of the year on the wrestling calendar, and I was a spectator. Sure, it bothered me at the time, but if I'm going to let those things affect me forever, I might as well just get out of the sport entirely, because then it's just not made for me. The one thing I've learned is that you can never get too low or too high. You have to



Now that Arn Anderson is WCW TV champion, Dustin could pursue that belt. He is confident his slump will end and disagrees with his father, Dusty, when he says his son is starting to lose his edge.

remain on a nice, even keel.

**Q:** So how did you react when you found out you weren't going to be wrestling at Starrcade?

**A:** Well, I took a shower, got dressed, got into my car, turned the radio up at full blast, and shouted a few things that I don't think could be printed in a family publication. Then I tried to forget about it. Actually, I thought about all that I accomplished in the past year and realized that 1994 wasn't so bad to me after all. Look, I'm still young, only 26 years old, and I've already won the U.S. title, and things are looking up. I'm wrestling the best competition

in the world and never embarrassing myself. Okay, so maybe I got a little tired toward the end of the year, but the great thing about Starrcade is that it is right at the end of the year, so New Year's Day is just around the corner. That means a fresh start for everybody.

**Q:** You sound almost content with your year, which I guess is what Dusty is getting at. I think he wants you to show a little more intensity and not be satisfied with being second-best.

**A:** Me? Satisfied with being second-best? Buddy, you're talking to a Rhodes, not some flunkie off the street. I'll never be satisfied with anything less

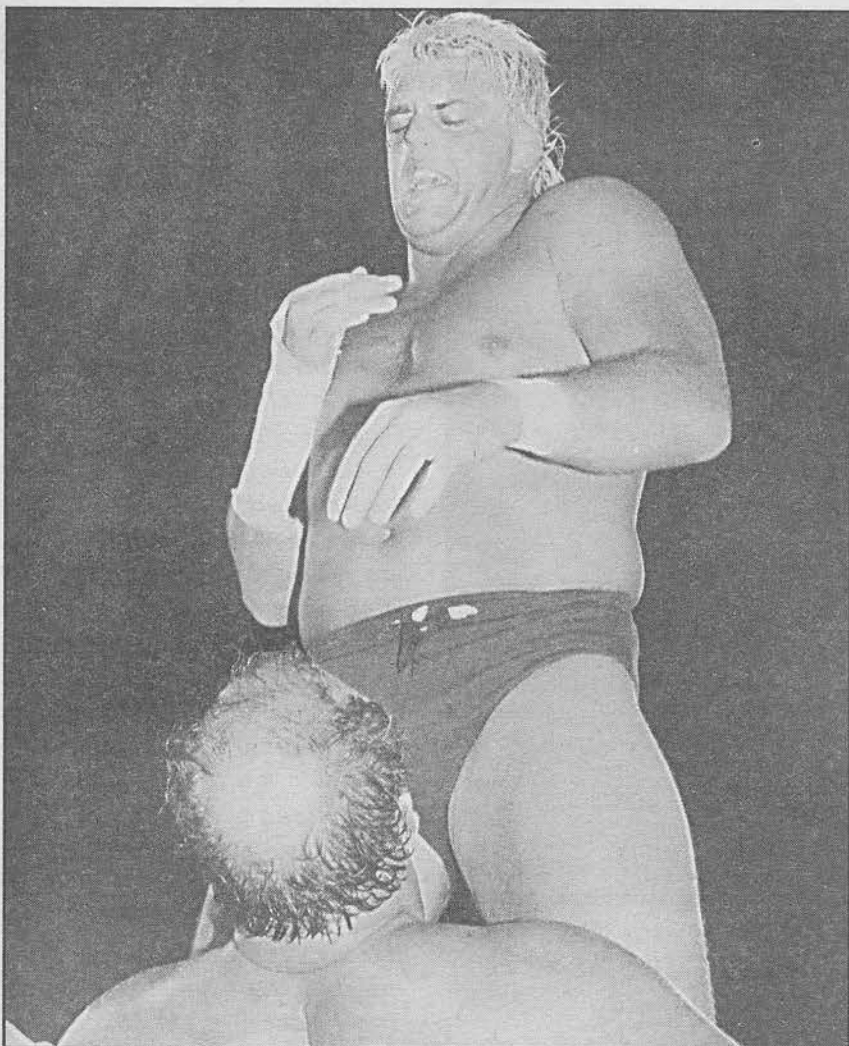
than the best. Man, anybody who thinks differently about me just doesn't know me. Nobody, and I mean nobody, is harder on me than me. What my father said, what all of these people are saying, I've thought all of it before and wondered whether it's true. If I was content with being just a contender to the U.S. and World titles, I'd have gotten out of this business a long time ago. That's just not me.

**Q:** Are you concerned at all that Vader going after Hogan is going to tie up two titles, the U.S. and the World, and leave you with nothing?

**A:** I'd be concerned if I was 60 years old and still waiting to win my first major title. Since I'm 26 and I already have a U.S. title under my belt, I'm willing to sit back and let things play out. The way I see it, one of two things are going to happen: Either Hogan's going to hold off Vader, leaving Vader as a very tired U.S. champion, or Vader's going to beat Hogan and vacate the U.S. title. And if that happens, that leaves the U.S. title and the World title within my reach, because I have no doubt in my mind that I can beat Vader.

**Q:** But you haven't shown it. In fact, your matches with Vader this fall and winter seem to be the main reason you were kept out of Starrcade.

**A:** Okay, I'll admit that he was tough, but he wasn't invincible. I'd be hearing all this talk about how Vader is the most dangerous man in wrestling, but he didn't even come close to really hurting me. I just think Vader has a good publicist who sets up this aura of invincibility around him. I'm talking about Race, of course. Heck, maybe I need a good publicist, too, 'cause there've been a lot of negative vibes about me lately. But let me guarantee you one thing: This is going to be a big year for me, and I'm going to make it that way. I'm not asking for any breaks. I'm going to make my own. Plus, I could always go after Arn Anderson and the TV title. I



For months upon months, Dustin Rhodes has been stuck battling Arn Anderson and the rest of Col. Parker's Stud Stable. He is hoping for better things—specifically a victory for the WCW World or U.S. title—in 1995.

**"I'll never be satisfied with anything less than the best ... Anybody who thinks differently about me just doesn't know me"**

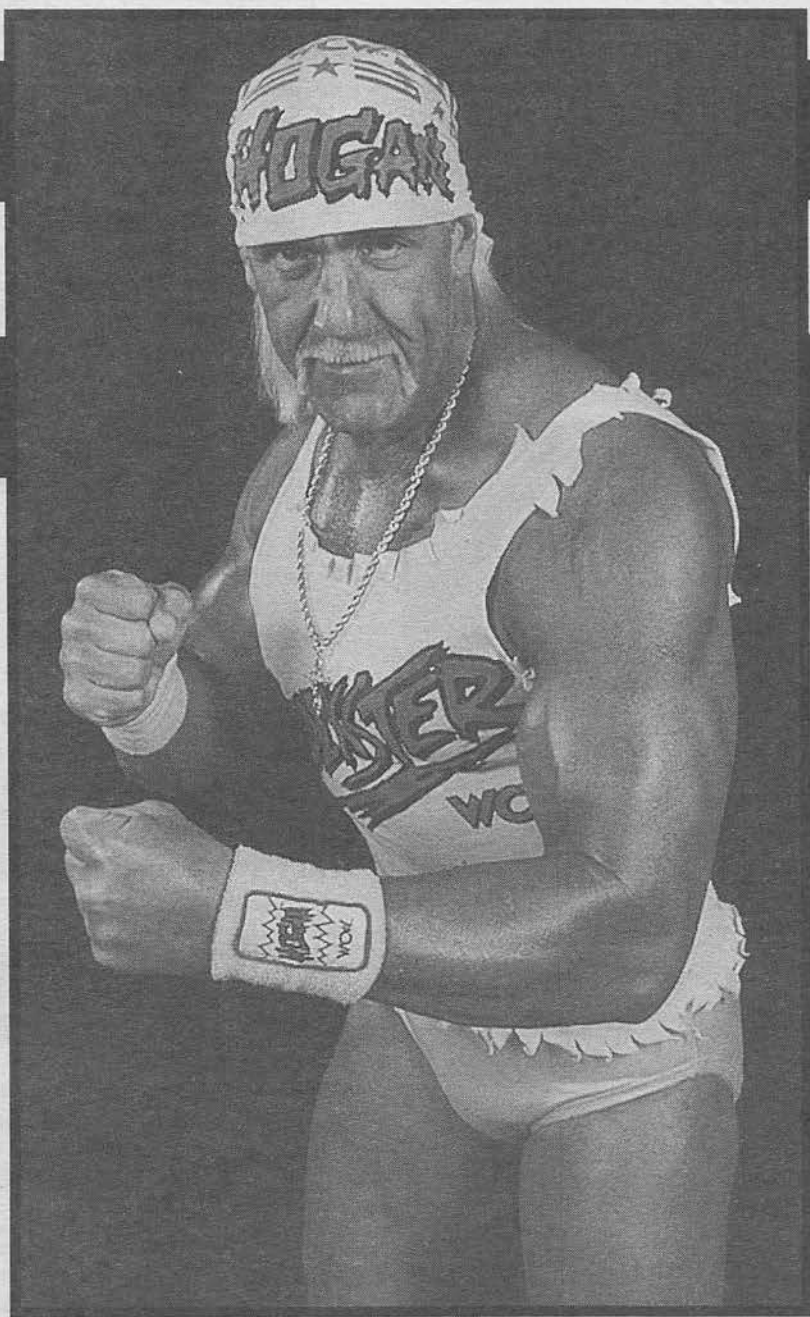
beat him many times in '94. You can check the record books. Anytime anybody in that Stud Stable wants a shot at me, I'll take them on anywhere. That includes Anderson, Slater, Bunkhouse Buck, or even Meng or Parker himself. I'm always ready for them.

**Q:** Thanks for your time, Dustin. Now let's have lunch.

**A:** Sounds good to me, but you can have the pizza all to yourself. □



# HULK HOGAN'S

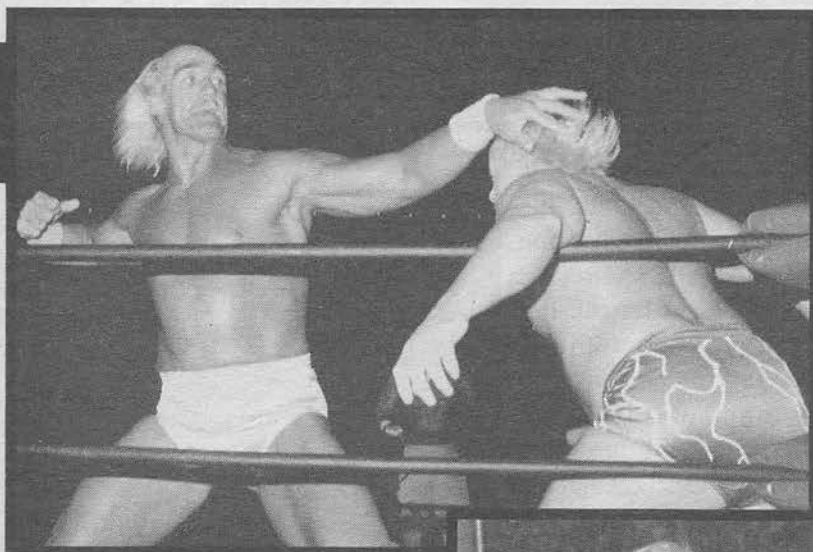


**I**T WAS THE superpowers summit to end all superpowers summits. Sting was there. So were Johnny B. Badd, Hacksaw Duggan, Dave Sullivan, Randy Savage, Alex Wright, Marcus Alexander Bagwell, and The Patriot. Fortunately for us and our readers, Senior Editor Bill Apter was invited, too, although he wasn't allowed to bring his camera. The meeting was called by Hulk Hogan and took place in a large meeting room at WCW headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. A buffet lunch was served, and every morsel was downed. The energy in the room was incredible. Sides were drawn. The enemy was clearly described. So was the battle plan. It was an unprecedented gathering of WCW fan favorites in a powwow organized by the biggest chief of all. The following is an edited transcript of this historic meeting:

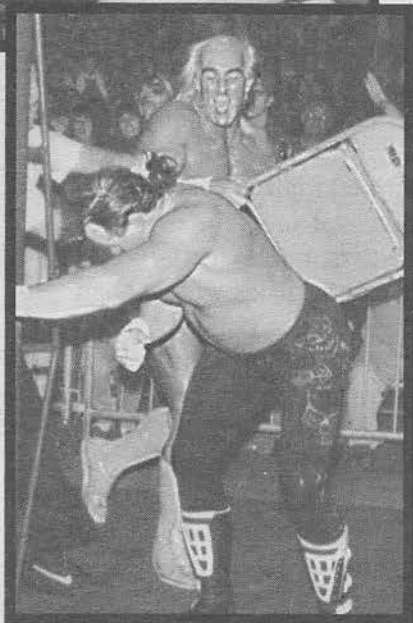
# CALL TO ARMS:

*"United We Stand, Divided We Brawl!"*

Photos by Bill Apter



Neither Kevin Sullivan (above) nor Brutus Beefcake (right) has been any match for Hulk Hogan in one-on-one competition. The "Hulkster" is concerned about what kind of damage rulebreakers can do when they attack him in groups.



**HULK HOGAN:** Welcome, brothers. I guess you all know why you're here today. As you all know, we're under attack.

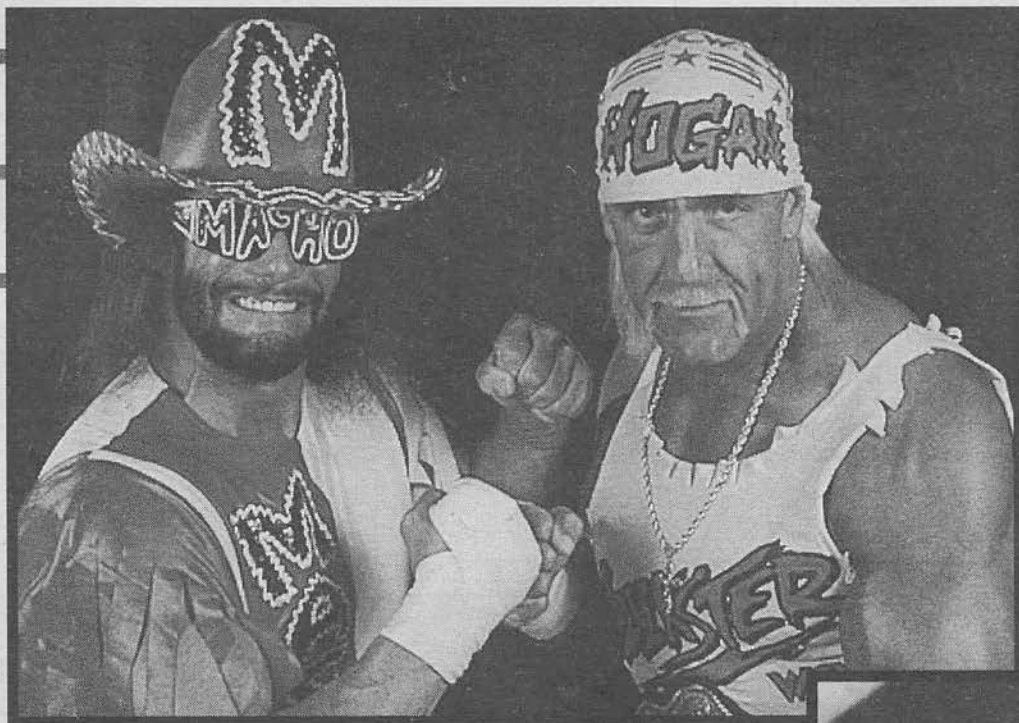
**JOHNNY B. BADD:** Attack, "Hulkster"? What do you mean?

**HOGAN:** I'm talking about the Three Faces of Fear, led by Kevin Sullivan. I'm talking about Big Van Vader and Harley Race. Avalanche. "The Butcher." I don't know how business is usually done around here, but if you ask me, order needs to be restored.

**STING:** I think I know what you're talking about, Hulk, but I'm not sure what can be done about it. I mean, there have always been two very clearly drawn sides in this federation and things aren't any different now. You have the side that stands for good and the side that stands for evil.

**HOGAN:** True enough, brother, but I think it's even worse than usual. We're approaching a state of anarchy. Look at Sullivan's clowns. They think they can do





Hogan and Randy Savage are leading the charge against WCW rulebreakers. Both men agree that *all* the fan favorites must be united and must watch each other's backs at all times.

whatever they want and get away with it. They nearly made a mockery of Starrcade with all the interfering that went on ...

**STING:** Thanks again for the helping hand, Hulk.

**HOGAN:** That's exactly the kind of thing I'm talking about. Sticking together. Being a team, just like they're a team. You know something, the way it's always gone on in the past, everybody's fought their separate battles and taken care of their own business, but I don't think that's the way it can be done anymore. Like I was saying, Sullivan's clowns are running wild, and look at what Vader did after Starrcade. He nearly busted the door down trying to get at me and nothing was done about it. That got me heated up.

**HACKSAW DUGGAN:** So what are you saying, Hulk, that we take matters into our own hands?

**HOGAN:** I'm saying united we stand, divided we fall, or brawl. The reason the so-called rulebreakers have always thrived around here and in all of wrestling is that they stick together and go

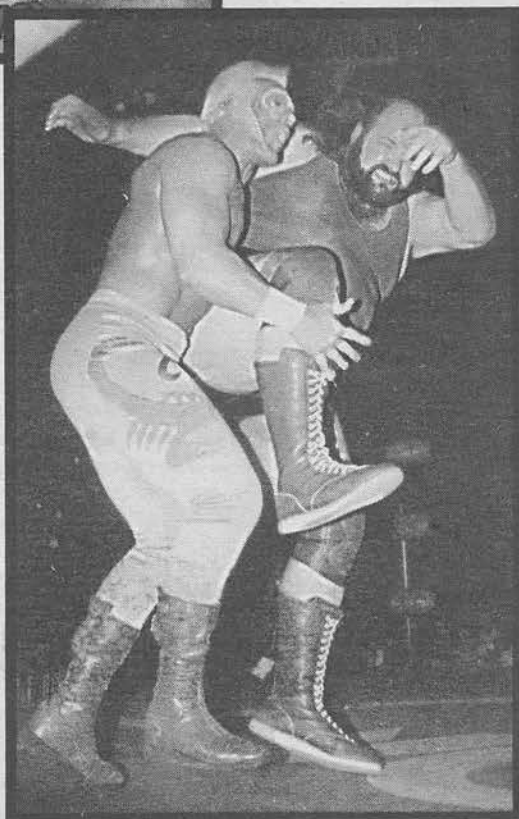
after fragmented units. It's like a war of all against one or two and that's where they have us over a barrel. Let me tell you something, brothers, it's time for us to beat them at their own game. I think the time has come for us to show that we won't be kicked around anymore. There's a war of philosophies going on in wrestling, our philosophy against theirs, and it's important that our philosophy win out, not only for our own careers, but for the fans and all the little kids who depend on us. We're not just fighting for ourselves, brothers, we're fighting for ...

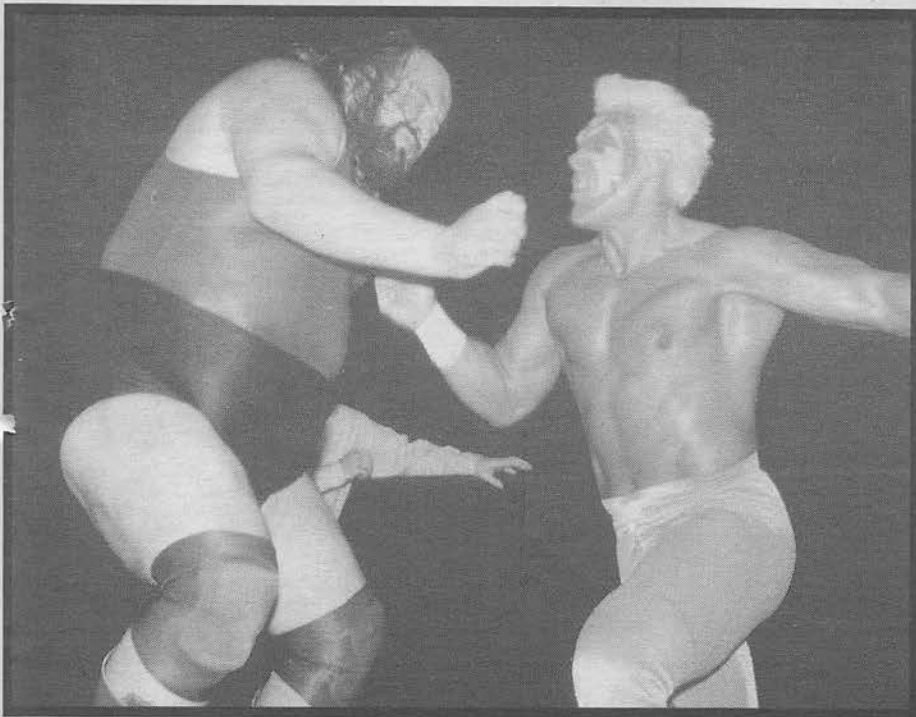
**MARCUS ALEXANDER BAGWELL:** Hold on a second, Hulk. Are you telling us that you want us to get behind you and protect you in your feud with Vader?

**HOGAN:** No way.

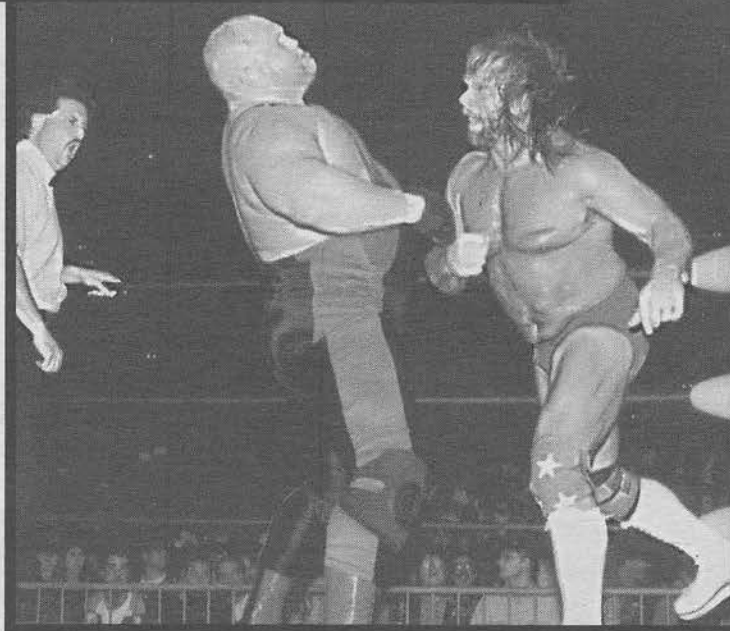
**BAGWELL:** Because that's what it sounds like.

**STING:** Listen to this bickering.





Sting's feud with Avalanche has taken a lot out of him (above and opposite page). But when the other Faces of Fear helped Avalanche pummel the "Stinger" at Starrcade, Hogan rescued him. That's the kind of teamwork the "Hulkster" hopes to see more of.



Big Van Vader took a beating from Hacksaw Duggan at Starrcade, but still beat him for the U.S. belt. Now he has turned his attention to Hogan. Hulk isn't looking for protection in that feud, just a chance to wrestle Vader in a fair match.

Marcus, you oughta be ashamed of yourself. This is exactly the kind of thing Hulk is talking about. You think the other side acts this way? They might be rulebreakers, but at least they know how to form a team.

**RANDY SAVAGE:** I agree with the "Hulkster." We have to band

together. There's strength in numbers, and we've got better numbers than anyone else in the world.

**STING:** That's right. Look at the talent in this room. It's mind-boggling. Anyone of us could be World champion.

**HOGAN:** All I'm saying is that we have to start helping each other out, just like I did for Sting and like "Macho Man" did for me and like I did for him a long time ago.

**STING:** I think it's like The Four Horsemen used to say ... all for one and one for all.

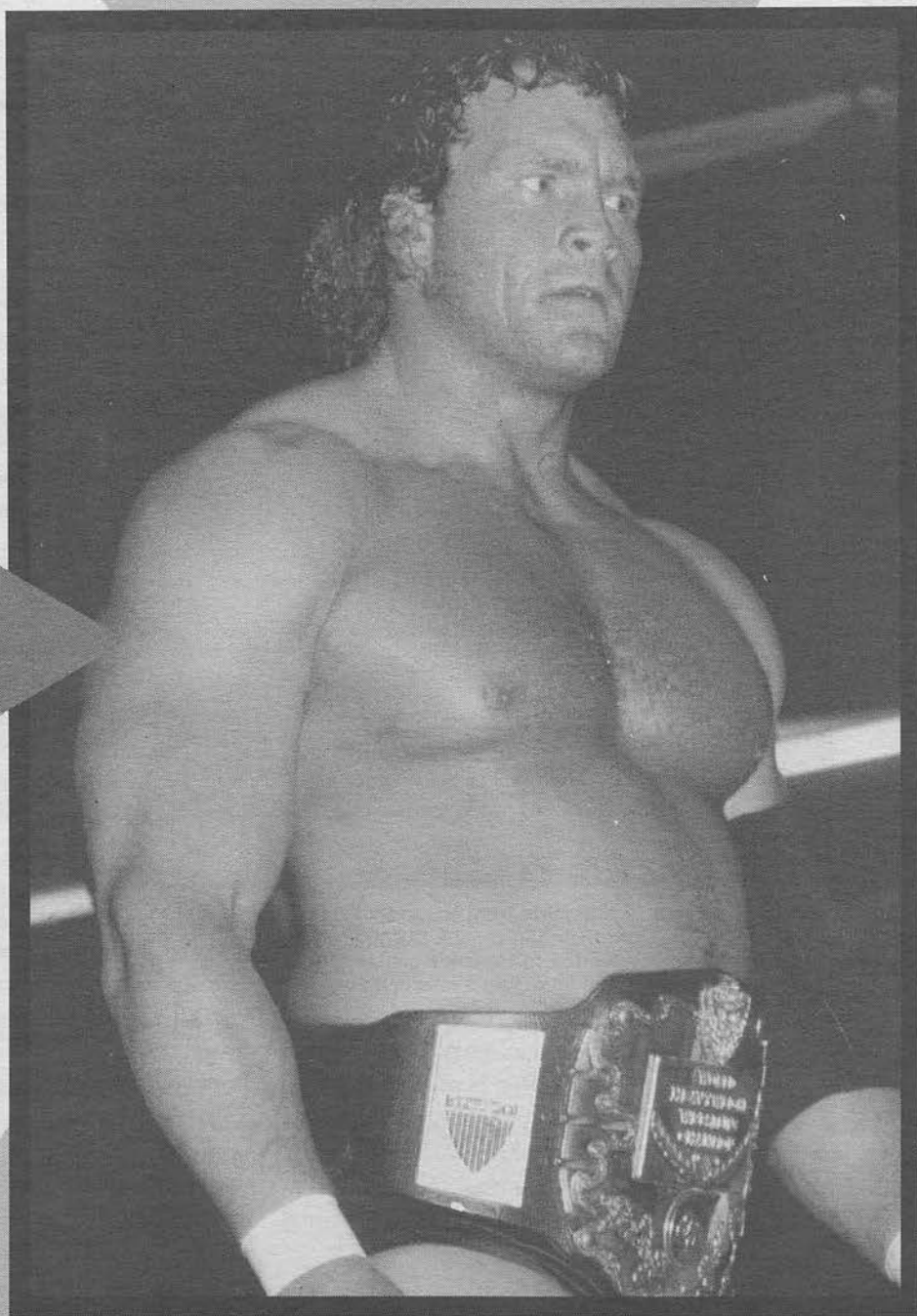
**BAGWELL:** I think I understand, but I'm not sure how it benefits me.

**HOGAN:** This isn't about one man, brother, it's about all of us, it's about the common good. We have a chance to write our own destiny and not let anything or anyone get in the way. The eyes of the world are upon us and they

want to see what we're going to do next. I say the next time Vader comes barreling through a door, we all stand up and push him back. It's the only way. Now I hope everybody's behind me and sees things my way. If you don't, just think about it for a while, and decide who's side you want to be on, but in my book, there aren't any individuals around here anymore. It's one big team. It has to be. □



# HOW **SID** IS **V**ICIOUSLY



# CONTROLLING THE USWA

**On paper, Sid Vicious looks like a  
USWA champion whose reign has held up against  
the best competition in the world.  
Look closer if you want the truth!**

**By Dave Rosenbaum**

**T**HEY'VE BEEN COMING in waves, one after another, all with a single goal in mind: beating Sid Vicious and bringing the USWA title back to the WWF. The Undertaker, Lex Luger, Tatanka, Mabel, and Adam Bomb have all given it their best shot, but every last one of them has been repelled by Sid Vicious.

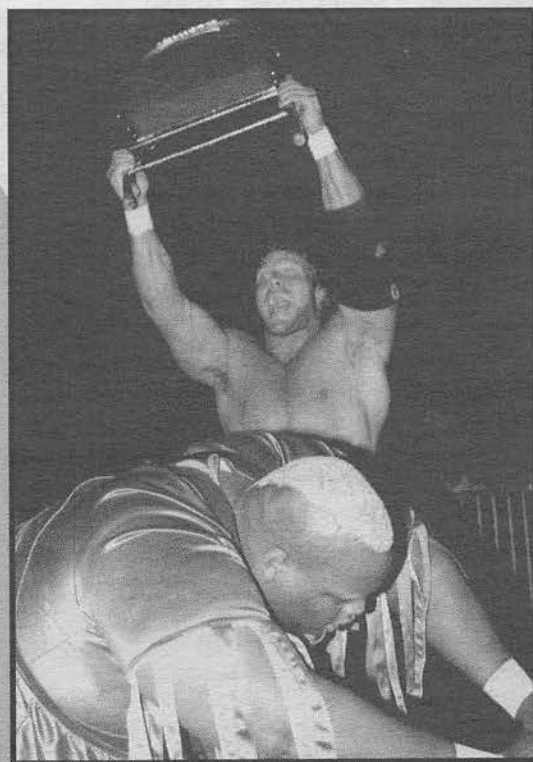
Considering Vicious' impressive record against the best opponents a super-federation could offer, one could easily assume that Vicious—once described by Kerry Von Erich as “the most awesome wrestler I’ve ever faced”—is ready to return to the big-time and win his first world title.

But anyone who makes that assumption obviously hasn't heard the hottest trivia question-disguised-as-a-tongue-in-cheek-joke making the rounds in the USWA.

Question: When was the last time Sid Vicious won an important match cleanly?

Most people won't stick around long enough to hear the correct answer: October 10, 1994, when Vicious pinned someone named Humongous. Their point has been made.

Vicious' long USWA title reign, which is going on eight months as of this writing, has included match after match against name opponents. The fact that he rarely beats any of those opponents cleanly leaves one wondering: Who runs the USWA, the USWA officials or Sid Vicious?



If Spellbinder isn't around, Vicious isn't shy about using a chair against WWF invaders such as Mabel. He figures the worst thing that can happen is he'll get disqualified and get to keep his belt.



On October 24, Vicious beat Mabel when Spellbinder interfered. In fact, Spellbinder interferes in most of Vicious' matches. On November 7, Vicious was pinned by The Undertaker, but retained the belt when Spellbinder pointed out to referee Kevin Christian that Undertaker belted Sid with a chain—Sid's chain. One day later, Vicious lost to Luger by disqualification and retained the title.

November 14: Vicious beat Buddy Landell after Jeff Gaylord interfered.

November 21: Vicious lost to Mabel by disqualification.

December 12: Adam Bomb beat Sid by disqualification when Spellbinder interfered. What does it say about Sid when he has to rely on interference to save his title from Adam Bomb?

"It just shows what I've been saying all along: If titles changed hands on disqualifications in this federation, Vicious would've lost the belt about a day after he won it," said Jerry Lawler. "Vicious is nothing, but the power of being champion is everything, and that guy is abusing it."

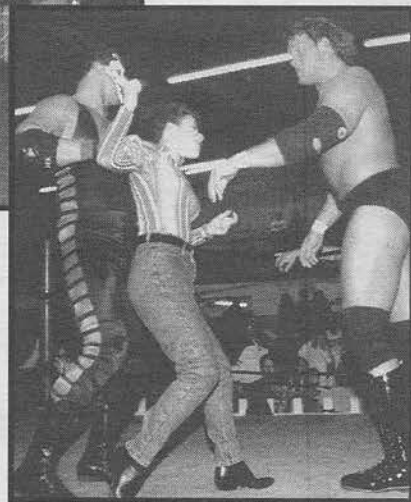
Lawler knows it better than anyone. He lost the belt by forfeit to Vicious last July and has since lost several matches by DQ and because of Spellbinder's interference. Lawler is also a party to Vicious' latest scam: a series of tag team matches that keep Vicious active, but also keep him from defending the belt on a regular basis in singles competition.

What's most appalling to USWA wrestlers is that Spellbinder, Tommy Rich, and Doug Gilbert constantly interfere in Vicious' matches and are never punished for their infractions.

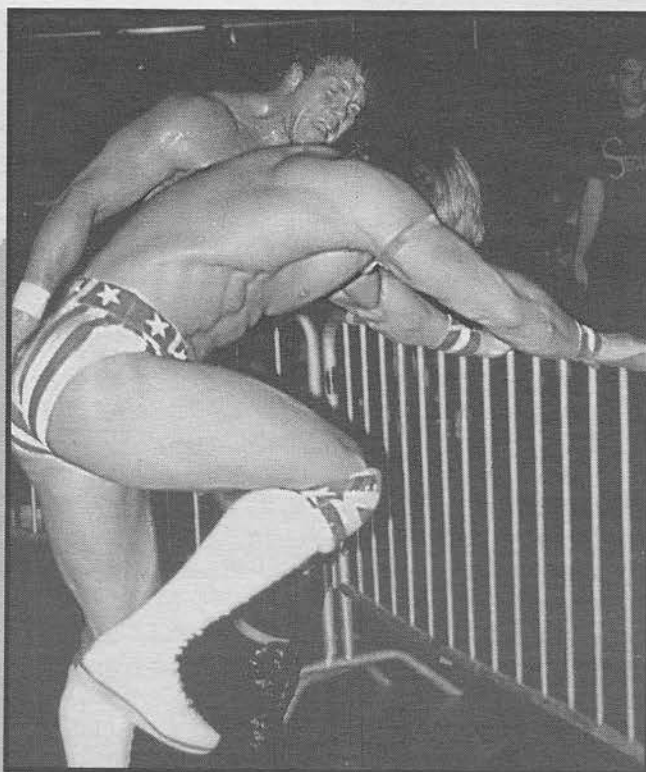
"It's an anarchy," said one USWA wrestler who agreed to be interviewed under the condition his name wouldn't be printed. "Vicious and his henchmen are



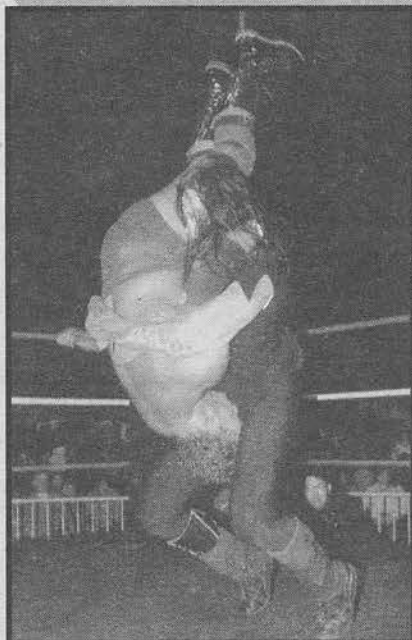
Sid Vicious might as well defend his title in handicap matches, since Spellbinder always ends up interfering anyway (left). He even needed Spellbinder's help to harass "Dirty White Girl" Kimberly after a bout (below).



running the show and basically putting the belt under lock and key, and nobody's doing anything about it. The other day I asked one of the officials why this was happening. He just shrugged his shoulders, mumbled something about professional courtesy, and



There are people who think Sid is capable of cleanly beating someone like Lex Luger. Every time they have wrestled recently, however, Sid has gotten himself disqualified before the match could come to a decisive finish.



Undertaker should have won the USWA belt after putting Vicious away with a "tombstone" piledriver (left), but Spellbinder again got Sid disqualified. Matches with Tatanka (below) have ended similarly. At least one USWA official is fed up with the champion's behavior.

walked away in a huff. It's a sham."

The sham is effective. With Vicious, a famous and tremendously appealing figure as a top box office draw, USWA cards are playing to large audiences. The USWA cash box is overflowing; maybe that's the reason nobody wants to step on Vicious' toes. At a recent meeting of USWA match-makers, one person suggested the federation modify—not elimi-

nate—the disqualification rule regarding title changes. The proposal was to allow titles to change hands on disqualifications involving interference, but not on disqualifications by other means. The issue wasn't even put on the table.

"From what I understand," said the official, who also demanded anonymity, "Vicious has an open contract that allows him to name his opponent. On the surface, it looks like Vicious is bringing in all of these great wrestlers to face him, but Vicious might as well be wrestling Godzilla. Almost all of his matches end without a pin."

Smoky Mountain heavyweight champion "Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony, an occasional challenger to Vicious and a man who knows how to get around the rules, called Sid "the most bogus champion in all of wrestling." Everybody thinks he's this big, powerful wrestler, but he hasn't shown me nothing. I'd beat him easily if somebody could sign him to a no-DQ match."

It will never happen. According to our sources, Vicious also

has a clause in his contract that allows him to pick the types of matches in which he wrestles.

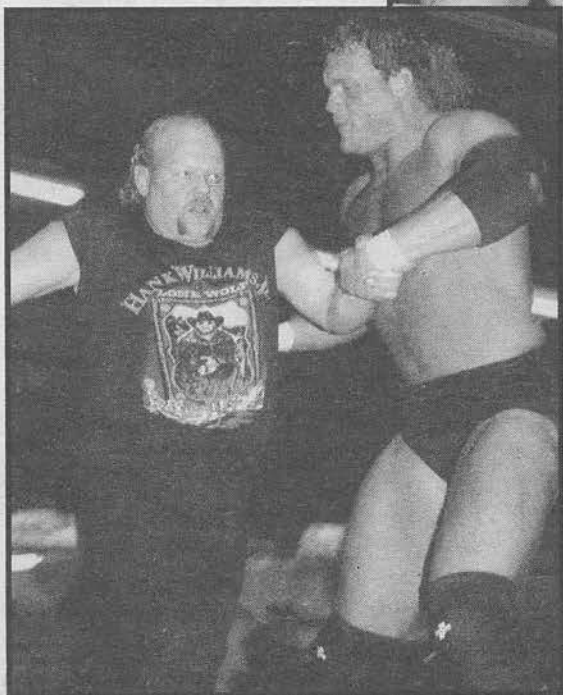
In short, when Vicious won the USWA heavyweight title from Lawler, he won it for life. Or so it seems.

"Nobody's ever going to win this belt from me," Vicious growled.

His bark is far bigger than his bite, but Vicious might have a point nonetheless. □



"Dirty White Boy" Tony Anthony called Sid "the most bogus champion in all of wrestling." That's quite a statement from a man who knows how to break rules. Not many people are disagreeing with him, though.





The telephone wires sizzle each month, as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. Here's the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to feel the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ... One On One

**T**HE YEAR 1994 was definitely the year of the warring brothers. Bret Hart vs. Owen Hart, Kevin Sullivan vs. Dave Sullivan, ... even Doug and Eddie Gilbert briefly renewed their on-again, off-again family feud.

As 1994 ended and 1995 began, the brotherly feuds didn't stop. In fact, a new one began. It started seven days into the new year at the ECW Arena in Philadelphia. And it might just have been the most vicious split of them all.

Ian and Axl Rotten were as close as two brothers could be. They traveled to the United States from England a few years ago hoping to make their mark on the world of professional wrestling. After brief stints in the USWA and other independent promotions, the duo settled down and made their home in Extreme Championship Wrestling. Their brawling ability earned them plenty of respect as they set their sights on the ECW tag team championship.

Then the trouble started.

In working their way up the ladder of contention, Ian and Axl were met head-on by The Pit Bulls, a tag team that could rival the Rottens in viciousness. After a few bloody matches, the teams signed to wrestle a "losing-team-must-split up" match. It turned out to be the most important match the Rottens would ever wrestle.

It also turned out to be their last as a team.

The Rottens were defeated when

*Ian was pinned after one of the Pit Bulls executed a devastating "Frankensteiner" from the top rope. It was then that Ian's true feelings toward his brother became clear. He brutally attacked Axl, leaving him lying on the mat in a pool of his own sweat and blood.*

*Ian obviously blamed his brother for the loss and is still furious with him; Axl just wants an explanation. Both men were definitely ready to go at it in what proved to be a very emotional ... "One on One."*

**IAN ROTTEN:** Well, well, well, if it isn't the lousy bum who cost me

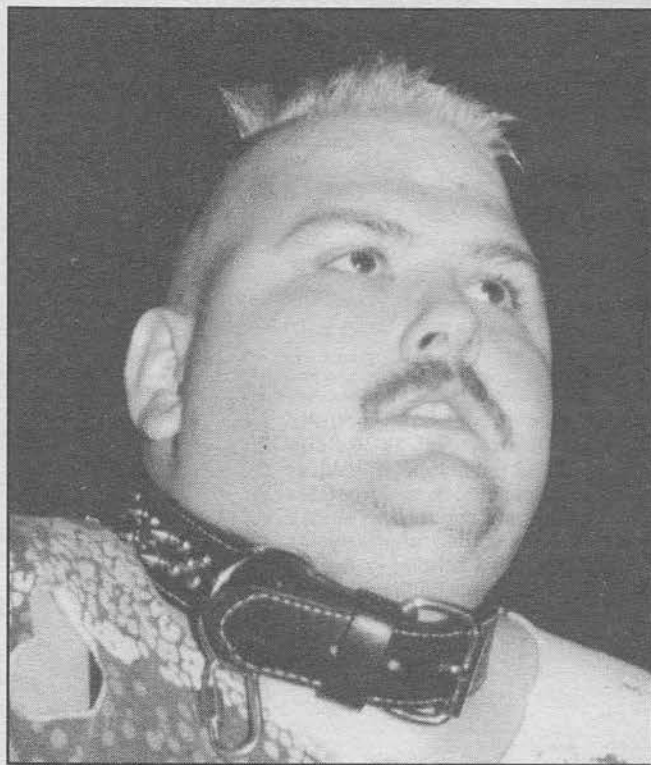
my career. How ya doin', loser? Lose any big matches recently?

**AXL ROTTEN:** I just can't believe you, brother. What happened to you? It wasn't my fault that you couldn't hold up your end of the deal. We had the match against The Pit Bulls won, and you blew it.

**IR:** What do you mean it wasn't your fault? Of course it was! It wasn't me who started to celebrate before the match was over. You know, in some strange way, I'm glad that we lost that match. It showed me, and, more importantly, the whole world, what kind of a loser you really are.

**AR:** You're my own flesh and

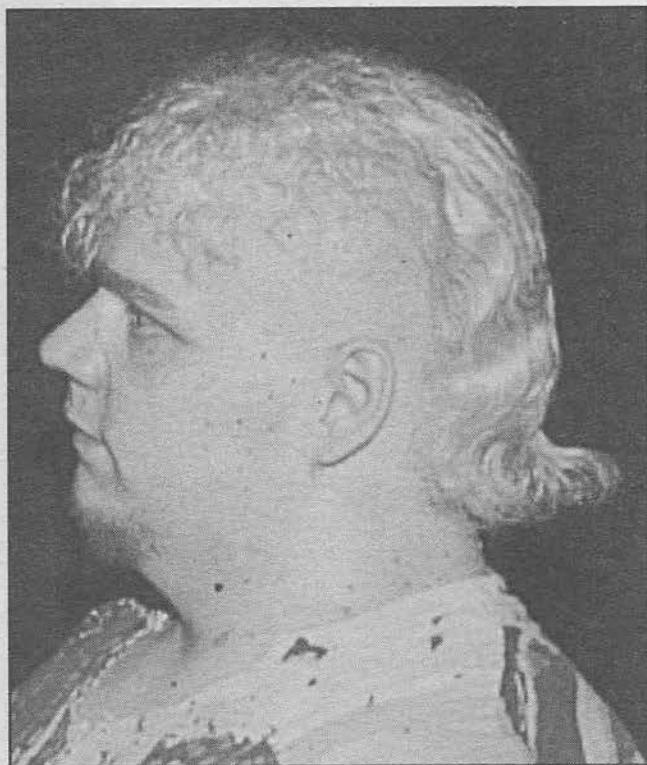
# ONE ON ONE



**"I'm going to make you pay! I'm going to beat on you, bloody you, and make you feel the pain that I feel inside!"**

**—Ian Rotten**

# N ONE



**"My God, what has happened to my life?  
My own flesh and blood, my own brother ...  
he hates my guts!"  
—Axl Rotten**

blood! What happened to you? Don't you remember all those times on the streets of Newcastle, how we would beat the hell out of everyone, until me and you were the only ones standing? Don't you remember how we would go and rob that corner store, with me beating up the cashier and you taking the money from the register? Don't you remember all those good times? We were a team. Everyone was so damn afraid of us. We were always together, and we struck so much fear into the punks of that city that it wasn't even funny! What happened?

**IR:** Yeah, I remember those times, but a lot different then you do. It was

always me who had to do the dirty work. It was me who always had to save your fat butt. I was the one who did all of the hard work, and you took all the credit. I always beat up more people than you, or stole more money than you, or got arrested more than you, and you would always tell Mum that you were the better ...

**AR:** Oh, so that's what this is about? Don't drag our mother into this! She's a good woman! If you think for one minute that she loved me more than she loved you, you're out of your mind!

**IR:** She did!

**AR:** How can you say such a

thing? She loved us both the same. She told us that all the time. She was never proud of what we did, making all that trouble like we used to, but she loved us anyway. Do you remember that time when the bobbies put us in jail for beating up those four guys at the pub on the corner that one Saturday night?

**IR:** *(No response)*

**AR:** Do you? Do you?

**IR:** *(Barely audible)* Yeah, I remember.

**AR:** What happened that night? Mum came down to the jail, using the money she put away for some food to come and bail us out. I'll never forget the look in her eyes that night, and I know you'll never forget it, either.

**IR:** No, I won't.

**AR:** Man, she was so disappointed in us. The look in her eye said to me that we were worthless. And we were! We never did anything but beat people up and steal. But when the bobby freed us, Mum put her arms around us, and what did she say? Do you remember?

**IR:** *(Barely audible)* Yeah.

**AR:** She said, "I love you anyway. You're my sons." Remember? For you to think that she loved me more than you is crazy! What's wrong with you, man?

**IR:** *(Screaming)* I don't care what you say! She did love you more! And I'm going to make you pay! I'm going to beat on you, bloody you, and make you feel the pain that I feel inside! Wait till the next time I get you in the ring! You think you're Rotten now. Wait till I'm done with you. You'll be through. You'll be in so much pain that you'll never wrestle again! *(Hangs up the phone)*

**AR:** *(Talking to no one in particular, in a depressed tone)* My God, what has happened to my life? My own flesh and blood, my own brother .. he hates my guts! He's really the only friend I've ever had, and now he's gone. What's going on here? Why can't things be the way they were? But the beating I give my brother will hurt me more than it will hurt him *(Hangs up)*. □



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## Sincerely Yours

(Continued from page 5)

matches. Thus continues the age-old tradition of the cowardly Hogan refusing to defend his belt against worthy opponents.

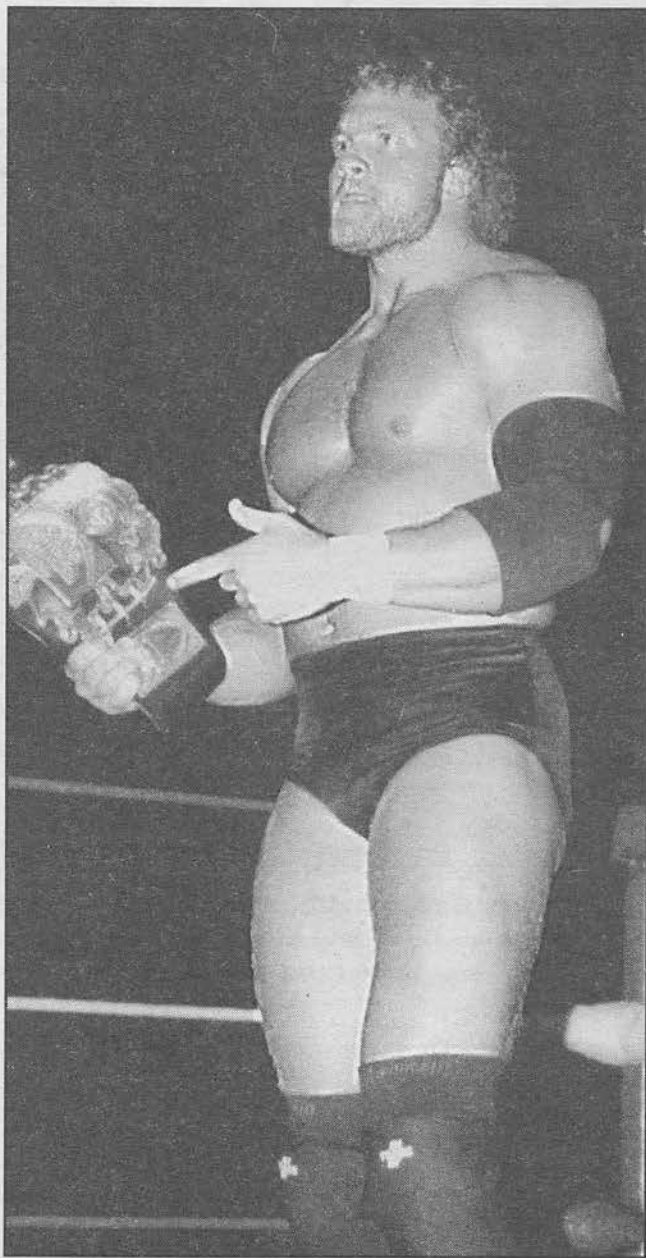
Disgraceful! "The Hulkster" is worse than Ron Garvin times three. If somebody ever writes the history of the NWA/WCW World title, I hope they leave the chapter with Hogan out.

HARRY SIMON  
Las Vegas, NV

### ROOM FOR ONE MORE

I think there is enough room on the rankings pages for another world heavyweight title. At the present time, you and your sister magazines recognize only the WWF and WCW world champions and rightfully so, since they are the two long-standing federations that are still going strong. But there is one other federation that also has had a long and successful tradition: the USWA.

With the demise of the AWA several years ago, there's now enough room to give the USWA world title status. The USWA has turned out some of wrestling's greatest stars, like Jerry Lawler, Jeff Jarrett, and many others. Now



The USWA title should be recognized as a world title by INSIDE WRESTLING, according to reader Thomas Bates. He says a lot of top stars have come out of the USWA, and thinks current champ Sid Vicious is pretty good, too.

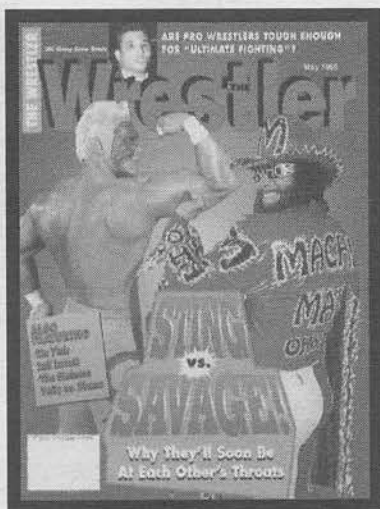
Sid Vicious, who I still say is one of the world's best wrestlers, is dominating the federation. Boxing has many world champions. Wrestling should, too!

THOMAS BATES  
Memphis, TN ☐

INSIDE WRESTLING

# This Month In...

## THE Wrestler

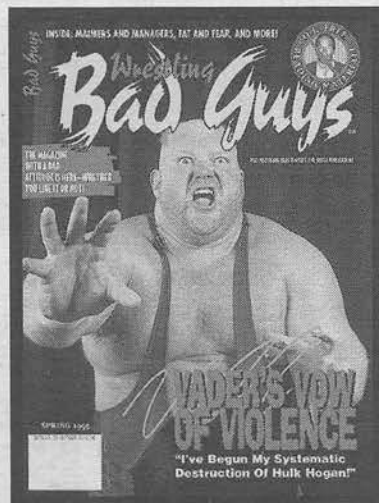


**HULK HOGAN** can't have two best friends in WCW. He used to team with **STING** a lot, but now it's **RANDY SAVAGE'S** turn. Have you noticed that the "Stinger" and the "Macho Man" aren't seen together much? They'll soon be at each other's throats! ... The **RIC FLAIR-BRET HART** feud ended two years ago, or did it? Flair still has unfinished business in the WWF ... You've heard **JEFF JARRETT** talk about how wonderful he is, but he just might be as great as he thinks!

All this—and much more!—in the May 1995 issue of **The Wrestler**

**NOW ON SALE!**

## Wrestling Bad Guys



**BIG VAN VADER** is a man with a plan. He is out to systematically destroy **HULK HOGAN**. It appears no one close to the "Hulkster" is safe from his horrible wrath! ... You've seen **BOB BACKLUND** put his chicken wing on everyone from a WWF employee to an elderly former manager. Has it finally come time for him to do the ultimate and maim **VINCE McMAHON**? ... **KEVIN SULLIVAN** is ready to expand the **THREE FACES OF FEAR**. He has \$1-million and he wants your help spending it!

All this—and much more!—in the Spring 1995 issue of **Wrestling Bad Guys**

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## Behind The Door

(Continued from page 12)

have forgotten about the match and gone after the girl. And nobody would have blamed him.

Michaels, however, was so intent on winning the Rumble and the shot at Diesel that nothing could stop him, not even the early draw. If Michaels was thinking that things looked hopeless, you certainly couldn't tell by looking at his face. Michaels was taking the match one man at a time, one minute at a time, and writing the textbook on Rumble survival.

Would Michaels have gone the distance had the Rumble been held under its former, 60-minute format? I think so. There are such things as teams and men of destiny, and Michaels is the WWF's man of destiny, its next World champion.

I know this because on a talent scale, Michaels is on a level with Bret Hart. On the charisma meter, Michaels matches Flair. When it comes to intelligence, there's simply nobody smarter.

And then you have these undeniable factors:

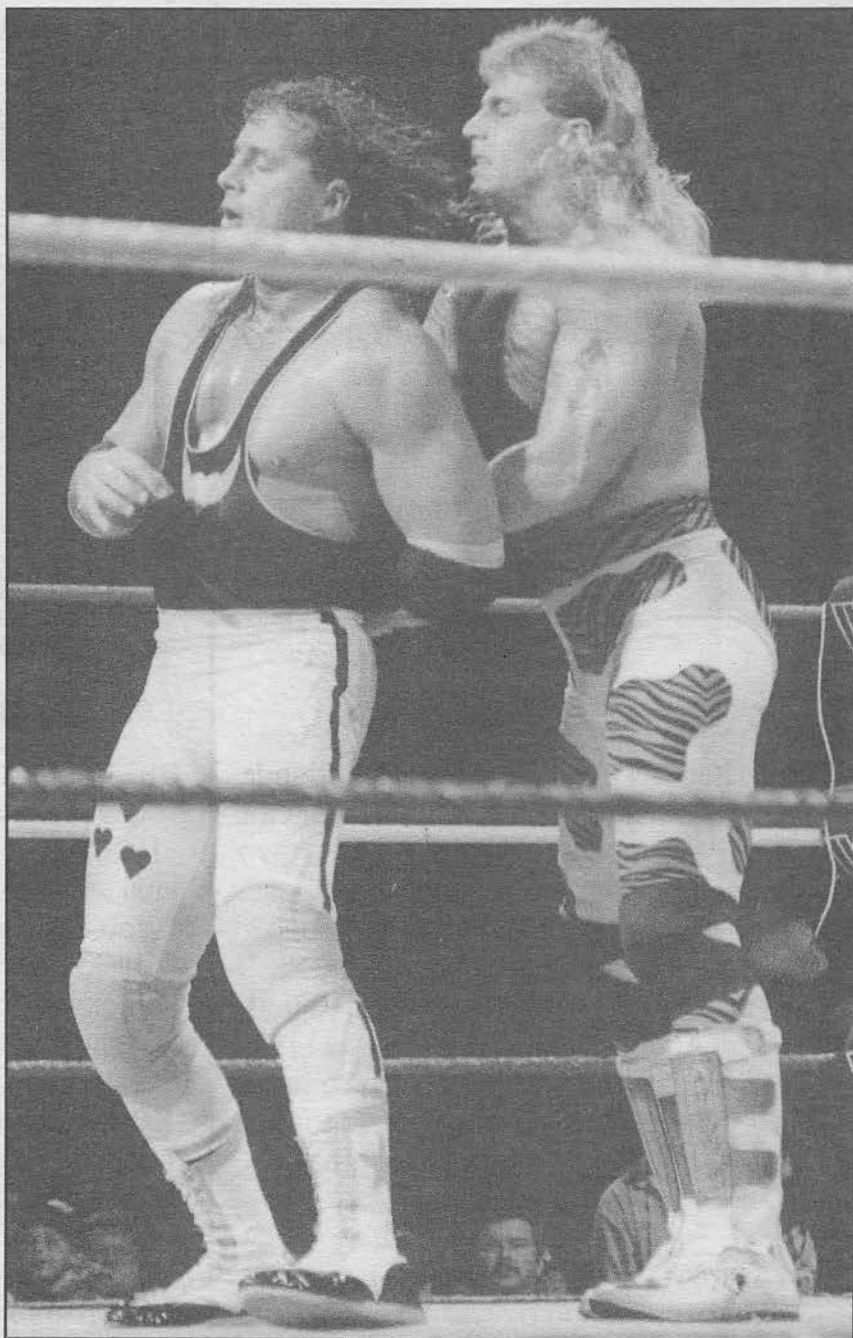
1. Diesel is one of the least talented WWF World champions ever.

2. Bret Hart is exhausted and playing hurt after more than three years at or near the top of the WWF heap.

3. Bob Backlund is too old and too out of his mind.

4. Nobody else in the WWF is World championship material. Let's not forget that Dick Murdoch, a great wrestler but an old man, was the 26th man eliminated.

Michaels is prime time. It would have been more appropriate if his ultimate victory occurred in Las



One reason Michaels will be able to hold on to the WWF World title for a while is a lack of top-notch competition. Bret Hart is beaten and exhausted after battling his brother Owen for so long.

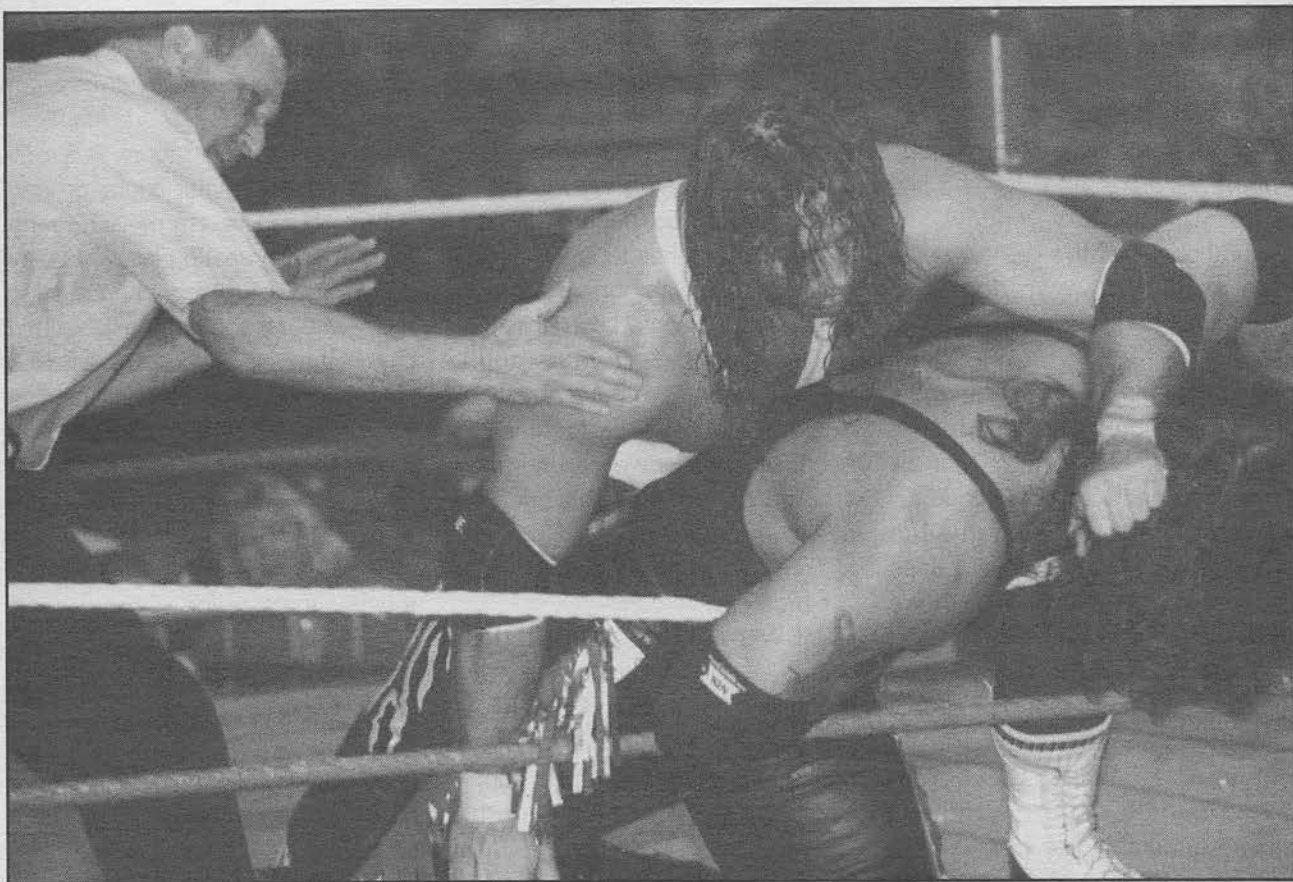
Vegas or Manhattan instead of civilized-but-boring Hartford, Connecticut, where bars close at 1 a.m. on weekdays, 2 a.m. on weekends, and there are no exceptions.

But it will happen at WrestleMania XI, better late than never, a time we all knew would eventually come.

Shawn Michaels, WWF World champion. Get used to it. □

## On The Road

(Continued from page 10)



Bret Hart battles WWF World champion Diesel to a draw in a thrilling match at the Rumble. Chris Bernucca thinks it's sad that the WWF isn't using these two popular stars to promote its pay-per-view cards.

ture of Hulk Hogan nearly two years ago. The WWF looked at its entire roster of high-priced talent and decided that there was no one who could attract viewers to a wrestling card better than Pamela Anderson.

The appearance of Pamela Anderson more than likely had a positive effect on the buy rate for the Royal Rumble. She's easy on the eyes and added a voyeuristic quality to the event. Outside of her physical appearance, however, she contributed little to the card. In fact, the appearance of Pamela Anderson called attention away from the WWF wrestlers, who should have been the stars. Bret Hart, Diesel, and every other

wrestler who has devoted his life to the sport should have felt slighted by the appearance of Pamela Anderson.

The WWF has always been on the cutting edge of marketing and promotion. Excellence is those areas is what separates the WWF from other federations. But you have to wonder about how the WWF feels about its current crop of wrestlers. By using Pamela Anderson as a promotional vehicle, the WWF turned the Royal Rumble into a peep show. ☐

Chris Bernucca's WrestleMania XI  
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Shawn Michaels pins Diesel for  
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# The Insider

(Continued from page 14)

once offered The Road Warriors several million dollars if they'd feud as blood relations.

"Hawk and I picked the guy up," Animal recalled, "and dangled him out of a third-story window. On general principal. We didn't like the idea at all. When we don't like something, we do something about it!"

Of course, a strand of hair and a little blood could end the Hogan-Beefcake rumors once and for all. "You don't need any DNA to know we're not related," Hogan said. "That man is not my brother. I used to treat him like one, but those days are gone forever, brother."

Too bad. A sibling rivalry would fuel a feud that will likely die shortly after Big Van Vader and Hogan tangle a few times. Of course, Vader's male-pattern baldness looks remarkably like Hogan's. And no one has ever seen their mothers in the same room at the same time.

Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

## NEWS ITEM: Road Warriors to reunite?

How rare and exquisite a true comeback is. So great the expectations, so great the possibility for failure and disappointment. For every George Foreman, there is a Roberto Duran. In music, for every triumphant Led Zeppelin reunion, there are two dozen Moody Blues tours sung to the tune of nothing else but the *cha-ching* of ringing cash registers. Sure a Road Warrior reprise would generate huge box office, but would it be as delicious the second time around?

"We don't buy into the myth of The Road Warriors," Animal said. "If we do decide to team again—and that's our decision—the past becomes meaningless. What do you think we'd do, bring old films of all our title victories to the ring? Will pictures of us with our old title belts win us any matches? I don't think so."

"What we did 10 years ago is ancient history. We have nothing to prove. If we get back together it's because we feel we can find new mountains, not visit the ones we already climbed."

Don't you think those two look like brothers?

## NEWS ITEM: Relocation drama.

I'm like, more crazed than usual. I'm moving. Not just a pleasure cruise to another town for a couple of months. As of next month's

issue, I will be working out of our West Coast office, on permanent reassignment. This young man is going west. No more frozen door locks, Pakistani cab drivers, Bill Apter odors, or mad subway bombers. I'm moving to the state of shifting earth plates, drive-by shootings, biblical floods, and raging hillside fires. If you need me, write in care of the Polo Lounge, Beverly Hills Hotel, second lounge chair next to Sharon Stone. Or you can reach me at my brother's place. What? You didn't know me and Harrison Ford were related?

P.S. There is no way Liz Hunter touches the steering wheel. □

Eddie Ellner's WrestleMania XI  
Forecast  
Shawn Michaels gets robbed  
by referee



Yeah, The Road Warriors might be coming back, but they won't be living off their reputations if they do reunite. And by the way, people, just because two men wear similar face paint, it doesn't mean they're brothers!

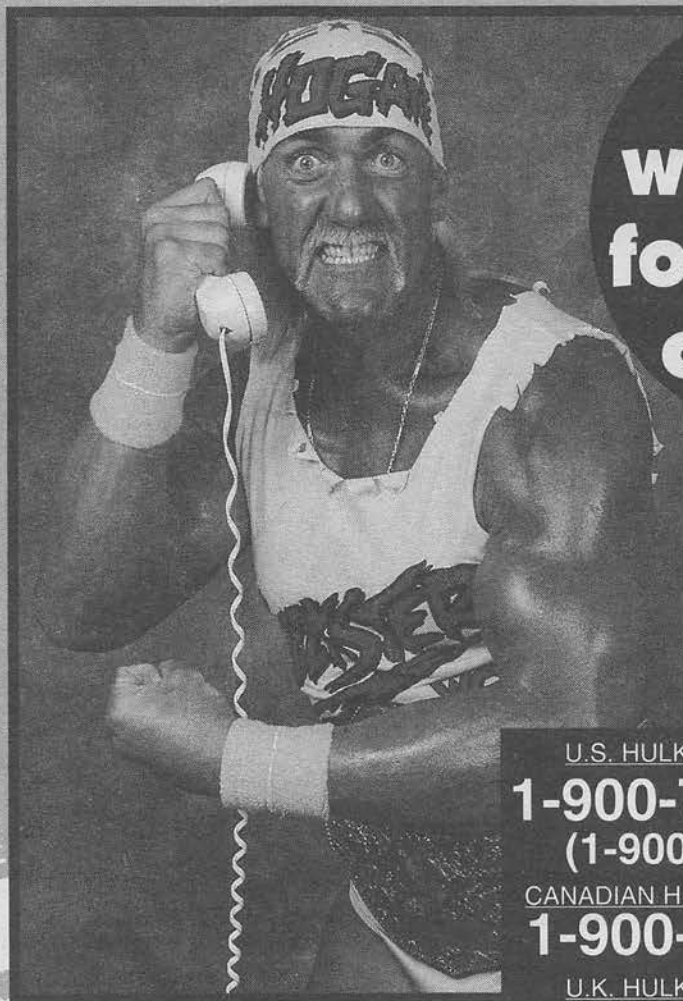
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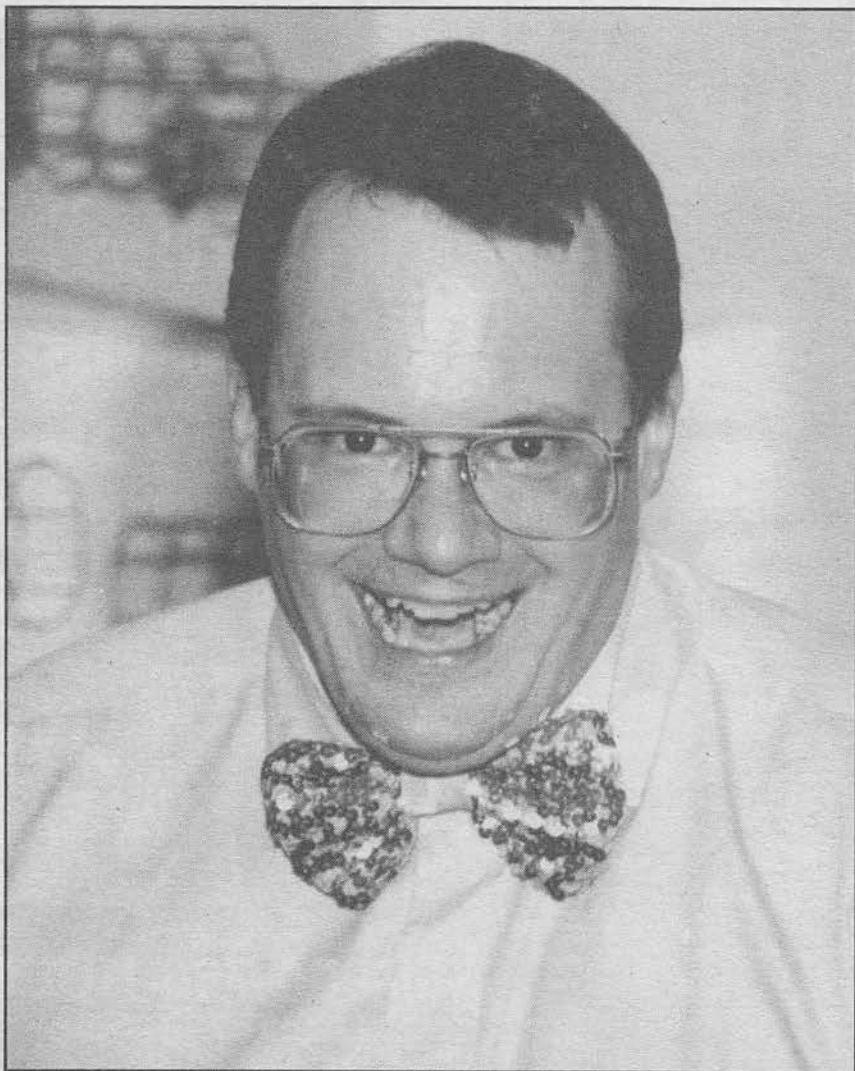
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## On Assignment

(Continued from page 16)



Wouldn't you like to take a ride with Jim Cornette's chauffeur? Liz thought it was a good idea ... and a good way to find out more about rumors that the Cornette fami-

up in big numbers in every sport, but in pro wrestling, I stand alone. To get to this point has required superhuman effort. You're telling me my reward for years of devoted hard work nets me three weeks in a car with Ellner?

"It will make fantastic copy," Saks explained. "We want the point-counterpoint angle. Two opposite points of view, traveling through America, speaking to wrestlers. Readers will love it."

If you're a woman covering hockey for ESPN and your bosses stick you on one bogus assignment after another, you can apply for a job elsewhere. Where can I go? *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*? Same crew, same cast. Unfortunately, I work for the best outfit in town, even if they do treat me like a plaything sometimes.

"Who's driving?" I asked.

"What do you mean?" Stu said.

"I've been on assignments before with Ellner, and he never lets me drive. I won't go unless he lets me split the driving."

"Actually for your first leg, from New York to Pittsburgh, we got Jim Cornette's chauffeur to drive you. Cornette will hitch a ride. He says he's meeting with Art Rooney Jr. We're supposed to believe that Mama Cornette's thinking about making a bid to buy the Pittsburgh Steelers."

I had heard that rumor, and knew quite a bit more than Stu. Cornette tried to tell me his mother wanted to buy a pro football team and use it as a farm system for her son's wrestling empire. "When they're done with football, most players are in prime wrestling condition," he said. "They already have the name recognition. I'll be the first to own a Super Bowl winner and WWF World champion."

It was a crazy idea, but I'd never heard Cornette so dead serious about anything. I had to be along for that ride.

"I'll go," I said. "But make sure after Pittsburgh, Ellner knows I'll be driving. And playing my music. No heavy metal. No rap."

"No problem," said Stu, putting a paternal arm around me. "I think you're in for the experience of a lifetime. I think we're about to make history."

So that's it, in all its outrageous, ridiculous, and undignified glory. Me and Ellner are hitting the road. If the road hits back, I hope it aims for him.

Next month: Pittsburgh. ☐

Liz Hunter's WrestleMania XI  
Forecast

Shawn Michaels pins Diesel for  
WWF World title

# Inside Wrestling

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**July 1986/All-American Special Issue.** Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.  
**September 1986/Stories include:** Andre, Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.  
**November 1986/Stories include:** Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.  
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**January 1995/Stories include:** Vader, Diesel & Razor, Hart, Luger, Sabu.

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# INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

## TOP 15

### 1—DIESEL

(1) WWF World champion

### 2—STING

(2) No. 2 contender: WCW World title

### 3—BIG VAN VADER

(4) U.S. heavyweight champion

### 4—JEFF JARRETT

(-) WWF Intercontinental champion

### 5—RAZOR RAMON

(3) No. 2 contender: WWF World title

### 6—DAVEY BOY SMITH

(14) No. 4 contender: WWF World title

### 7—RANDY SAVAGE

(-) No. 7 contender: WCW World title

### 8—HULK HOGAN

(5) WCW World champion

### 9—BRET HART

(-) No. 3 contender: WWF World title

### 10—SID VICIOUS

(13) USWA heavyweight champion

### 11—JERRY LAWLER

(-) Smoky Mountain champion

### 12—THE UNDERTAKER

(6) No. 6 contender: WWF World title

### 13—JOHNNY B. BADD

(8) No. 3 contender: WCW World title

### 14—KING KONG BUNDY

(15) No. 7 contender: WWF World title

### 15—SHAWN MICHAELS

(-) No. 5 contender: WWF World title

## WCW

### 1—HULK HOGAN

(1) 275, Venice Beach, CA

### 2—BIG VAN VADER

(2) 450, Denver, CO

### 3—STING

(4) 260, Venice Beach, CA

### 4—JOHNNY B. BADD

(3) 235, Macon, GA

### 5—ARN ANDERSON

(12) 249, Minneapolis, MN

### 6—AVALANCHE

(5) 502, Montreal, Quebec

### 7—HACKSAW DUGGAN

(7) 280, Glens Falls, NY

### 8—RANDY SAVAGE

(-) 237, Sarasota, FL

### 9—DUSTIN RHODES

(8) 254, Austin, TX

### 10—KEVIN SULLIVAN

(11) 252, Boston, MA

### 11—BRUTUS BEEFCAKE

(6) 273, San Francisco, CA

### 12—ALEX WRIGHT

(15) 222, Berlin, Germany

### 13—STEVE REGAL

(9) 247, Blackpool, England

### 14—BUBBA ROGERS

(-) 310, Cobb County, GA

### 15—DAVE SULLIVAN

(-) 283, Boston, MA

## WWF

### 1—DIESEL

(1) 356, Las Vegas, NV

### 2—JEFF JARRETT

(3) 230, Nashville, TN

### 3—RAZOR RAMON

(2) 287, Miami, FL

### 4—BRET HART

(-) 234, Calgary, Alberta

### 5—DAVEY BOY SMITH

(5) 245, Leeds, England

### 6—SHAWN MICHAELS

(-) 234, San Antonio, TX

### 7—THE UNDERTAKER

(6) 328, parts unknown

### 8—KING KONG BUNDY

(10) 446, Atlantic City, NJ

### 9—LEX LUGER

(7) 265, Chicago, IL

### 10—BOB BACKLUND

(4) 234, Princeton, MN

### 11—OWEN HART

(11) 227, Calgary, Alberta

### 12—TATANKA

(9) 250, Pembroke, NC

### 13—IRWIN R. SCHYSTER

(12) 248, Syracuse, NY

### 14—MABEL

(-) 503, Harlem, NY

### 15—HAKUSHI

(8) 231, Tokyo, Japan

## MOST POPULAR

### 1—STING

Last issue: No. 1 Most Popular

### 2—RANDY SAVAGE

Last issue: No. 6 Most Popular

### 3—RAZOR RAMON

Last issue: No. 3 Most Popular

### 4—HULK HOGAN

Last issue: No. 2 Most Popular

### 5—THE UNDERTAKER

Last issue: No. 4 Most Popular

### 6—BRET HART

Last issue: No. 12 Most Popular

### 7—LEX LUGER

Last issue: No. 7 Most Popular

### 8—DIESEL

Last issue: No. 5 Most Popular

### 9—DAVEY BOY SMITH

Last issue: No. 9 Most Popular

### 10—JOHNNY B. BADD

Last issue: No. 8 Most Popular

### 11—CACTUS JACK

Last issue: No. 11 Most Popular

### 12—TONY ANTHONY

Last issue: No. 14 Most Popular

### 13—BRIAN CHRISTOPHER

Last issue: unrated

### 14—HACKSAW DUGGAN

Last issue: No. 10 Most Popular

### 15—DUSTIN RHODES

Last issue: No. 13 Most Popular

## MOST HATED

### 1—BIG VAN VADER

Last issue: No. 1 Most Hated

### 2—OWEN HART

Last issue: No. 3 Most Hated

### 3—SHAWN MICHAELS

Last issue: unrated

### 4—BOB BACKLUND

Last issue: No. 2 Most Hated

### 5—JERRY LAWLER

Last issue: No. 9 Most Hated

### 6—KING KONG BUNDY

Last issue: No. 13 Most Hated

### 7—JEFF JARRETT

Last issue: unrated

### 8—IRWIN R. SCHYSTER

Last issue: No. 5 Most Hated

### 9—TATANKA

Last issue: No. 7 Most Hated

### 10—BRUTUS BEEFCAKE

Last issue: No. 4 Most Hated

### 11—AVALANCHE

Last issue: No. 6 Most Hated

### 12—SID VICIOUS

Last issue: No. 10 Most Hated

### 13—BUDDY LANDELL

Last issue: No. 14 Most Hated

### 14—SHANE DOUGLAS

Last issue: No. 15 Most Hated

### 15—EDDIE GILBERT

Last issue: unrated

## TOP 15

### 1—THE SMOKIN' GUNNS

(12) WWF World tag team champions

### 2—THE NASTY BOYS

(2) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title

### 3—HARLEM HEAT

(1) WCW World tag team champions

### 4—THE HEADSHRINKERS

(10) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title

### 5—BOB HOLLY & THE KID

(4) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title

### 6—THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS

(3) Smoky Mountain tag team champions

### 7—MARCUS BAGWELL & THE PATRIOT

(8) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title

### 8—DOUG GILBERT & TOMMY RICH

(-) USWA tag team champions

### 9—PUBLIC ENEMY

(6) ECW tag team champions

### 10—THE GANGSTAS

(11) No. 1 contenders: Smoky Mountain tag title

### 11—THE HEAVENLY BODIES

(13) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title

### 12—ELI & JACOB BLU

(-) No. 4 contenders: WWF World tag title

### 13—PG-13

(9) No. 1 contenders: USWA tag title

### 14—SABU & TASMANIAC

(-) No. 1 contenders: ECW tag title

### 15—PAUL ORNDORFF & PAUL ROMA

(-) No. 3 contenders: WCW World tag title

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue... "Most Popular" and "Most Hated" ratings are based on nationwide surveys of wrestling fans and on mail that comes to our offices ... Championships highlighted in bold on the "Roll Call Of Champions" have changed hands since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

**For period ended February 1, 1995**

## ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

### AAA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(Most recently held by Love Machine & Eddy Guerrero)

### ALL-JAPAN ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DAN KROFFAT & DOUG FURNAS

(September 9, 1993; from The Patriot & The Eagle; Omiya, Japan)

### ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: TOSHIKI KAWADA

(October 22, 1994; from Steve Williams; Tokyo, Japan)

### ALL-JAPAN JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DAN KROFFAT

(July 12, 1994; from Masanobu Fuchi; Kagoshima, Japan)

### ALL-JAPAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MITSU HARU MISAWA & KENTA KOBASHI

(December 10, 1994; beat Johnny Ace & Steve Williams in tournament final; Tokyo, Japan)

### ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: TOSHIKI KAWADA

(October 22, 1994; from Steve Williams; Tokyo, Japan)

### ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S ALL-PACIFIC CHAMPION: MINAMI TOYOTA

(August 24, 1994; beat Yoko Inoue; Tokyo, Japan)

### ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMPION: KAORI ITO

(May 4, 1994; beat Rie Tamada in tournament final; Toda, Japan)

### ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: AJA KONG

(November 26, 1992; from Bull Nakano; Kawasaki, Japan)

### ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CANDY OKUTSU

(December 6, 1993; from Chapparrito Asari; Osaka, Japan)

### ALL-JAPAN WOMEN'S TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

MINAMI TOYOTA & TOSHIYO YAMADA

(December 6, 1993; from Dynamite Kansai & Mayumi Ozaki; Osaka, Japan)

### ALL-STATE WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TONY PRICHARD

(August 24, 1994; from Rick Cannon; Pigeon Forge, TN)

### ALL-STATE WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: REGULATOR STEEL & REGULATOR STONE

(September 15, 1994; by forfeit, from Rick Conners & Lone Star; Maryville, TN)

### AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: T. RANTULA

(March 26, 1994; from Rip Sawyer; Johnsonburg, PA)

### AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: LORD ZOLTAN

(October 1, 1994; from Johnny Graham; Lewistown, PA)

### AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE BAD CREW

(September 30, 1993; title previously vacant; York, PA)

### AMERICAN STATES WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SCOTT SOMERS

(November 19, 1993; from Bo Dacious; Mansfield, OH)

### ATLANTIC WRESTLING COUNCIL LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPION: BOBBY ROGERS

(December 4, 1993; from Blare Rogers; Hollywood, FL)

### ATLANTIC WRESTLING COUNCIL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: T.J. JACKSON & THE MISER

(July 2, 1993; from American Scorpion & The Falcon; West Palm Beach, FL)

### CENTURY WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TONY ATLAS

(December 4, 1993; from Vic Steamboat; Tewksbury, MA)

### CONTINENTAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: VIC STEAMBOAT

(October 23, 1993; from The Iron Sheik; Wakefield, MA)

### CONTINENTAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RAY ODYSSEY

(October 23, 1993; from Flex Lavender; Wakefield, MA)

### ECW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SHANE DOUGLAS

(March 26, 1994; from Terry Funk; Devon, PA)

### ECW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: PUBLIC ENEMY

(November 5, 1994; from Cactus Jack & Mikey Whipwreck; Philadelphia, PA)

### ECW TELEVISION CHAMPION: DEAN MALENKO

(November 4, 1994; from 2 Cold Scorpio; Hamburg, PA)

### FLORIDA WRESTLING COUNCIL HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BUTCH LONG

(January 6, 1995; from Navy Seal; Tampa, FL)

### ICW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: MIKE MAJORS

(December 31, 1994; beat Marc Ash; Wallace, NC)

### ICW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: MARC ASH & GEORGE SOUTH

(January 14, 1995; beat Mike Majors and Dark Star; Atkinson, NC)

### IWC HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: KONNAN

(April 2, 1994; from Cien Caras; Reynosa, Mexico)

### IWGP CHAMPION: SHINYA HASHIMOTO

(May 1, 1994; from Tatsumi Fujinami; Fukuoka, Japan)

### IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: HIROSHI HASE & THE GREAT MUTA

(November 25, 1994; from Kensuke Sasaki & Hawk; Iwate, Japan)

### IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: NORIO HONAGA

(September 27, 1994; beat Pegasus Kid in tournament final; Osaka, Japan)

### MIDWEST TERRITORIAL WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BRUISER BEDLAM

(January 21, 1995; beat Mickey Doyle; Taylor, MI)

### MIDWEST TERRITORIAL WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: RAY ROBERTS & AL SNOW

(January 21, 1995; from Chris Carter & Mohammad Saad; Taylor, MI)

### NWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CHRIS CANDIDO

(November 19, 1994; beat Tracey Smothers in tournament final; Cherry Hill, NJ)

### NWA WOMEN'S CHAMPION: BAMBI

(July 26, 1994; from Peggy Lee Leather; Chattanooga, TN)

### PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION CHAMPION: TOSHIKI KAWADA

(October 22, 1994; from Steve Williams; Tokyo, Japan)

### PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:

MITSU HARU MISAWA & KENTA KOBASHI

(December 10, 1994; beat Johnny Ace & Steve Williams in tournament final; Tokyo, Japan)

### PLANT CITY WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: NAVY SEAL

(January 5, 1995; beat Jeff Bradley in tournament final; Plant City, FL)

### POWER ZONE WRESTLING ALLIANCE OKLAHOMA CHAMPION: BONECRUSHER STEVE

(January 15, 1994; from Psycho; Moore, OK)

### PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: ITALIAN STALLION

(November 12, 1994; from Terry Austin; Mooresville, NC)

### PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: FLAMING YOUTH

(August 19, 1994; from Brian Williams; Elkin, NC)

### RIVER CITY WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE: MAX IMPACT

(October 27, 1994; from Tom Steele; Winnipeg, Manitoba)

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JERRY LAWLER

(January 28, 1995; from Tony Anthony; Knoxville, TN)

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS

(December 25, 1994; from The Gangstas; Knoxville, TN)

### TRI-STAR WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: RICHIE DYE

(January 13, 1995; won battle royal for vacant title; Rossville, GA)

### TRI-STAR WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: KEITH HART & CHRIS STEELHEART

(January 6, 1995; from Roger Sartin & Jimmy Sharpe; Rossville, GA)

### USWA HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: SID VICIOUS

(July 16, 1994; by forfeit, from Jerry Lawler; Memphis, TN)

### USWA SOUTHERN CHAMPION: BRIAN CHRISTOPHER

(December 31, 1994; from Tommy Rich; Memphis, TN)

### USWA TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: DOUG GILBERT & TOMMY RICH

(January 14, 1995; from PG-13; Memphis, TN)

### WCW TELEVISION CHAMPION: ARN ANDERSON

(January 8, 1995; from Johnny B. Badd; Atlanta, GA)

### WCW U.S. CHAMPION: BIG VAN VADER

(December 27, 1994; from Hacksaw Duggan; Nashville, TN)

### WCW WORLD CHAMPION: HULK HOGAN

(July 17, 1994; from Ric Flair; Orlando, FL)

### WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: HARLEM HEAT

(December 8, 1994; from The Patriot & Marcus Bagwell; Atlanta, GA)

### WEST COAST CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JOHNNY CANUCK

(January 28, 1995; from The Bodyguard; Cloverdale, BC)

### WINDY CITY WRESTLING LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMPION: STEVE BOZ

(November 5, 1994; from Christopher Daniels; Chicago, IL)

### WORLD WIDE WRESTLING ALLIANCE INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: JACK HAMMER

(August 27, 1993; from Tony Atlas; Freeport, Bahamas)

### WORLD WIDE WRESTLING ALLIANCE TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TITLE VACANT

(Most recently held by The Diamond Express)

### WORLD WRESTLING ALLIANCE TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BAD ATTITUDE

(November 5, 1994; from Duane & Wayne Gill; Clementon, NJ)

### WWA FRONTIER MARTIAL ARTS CHAMPION: MR. ONITA

(September 19, 1992; from Tiger Jeet Singh; Yokohama, Japan)

### WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: JEFF JARRETT

(January 22, 1995; from Razor Ramon; Tampa, FL)

### WWF WORLD WOMEN'S CHAMPION: BULL NAKANO

(November 20, 1994; from Alundra Blayze; Tokyo, Japan)

### WWF WORLD CHAMPION: DIESEL

(November 26, 1994; from Bob Backlund; New York, NY)

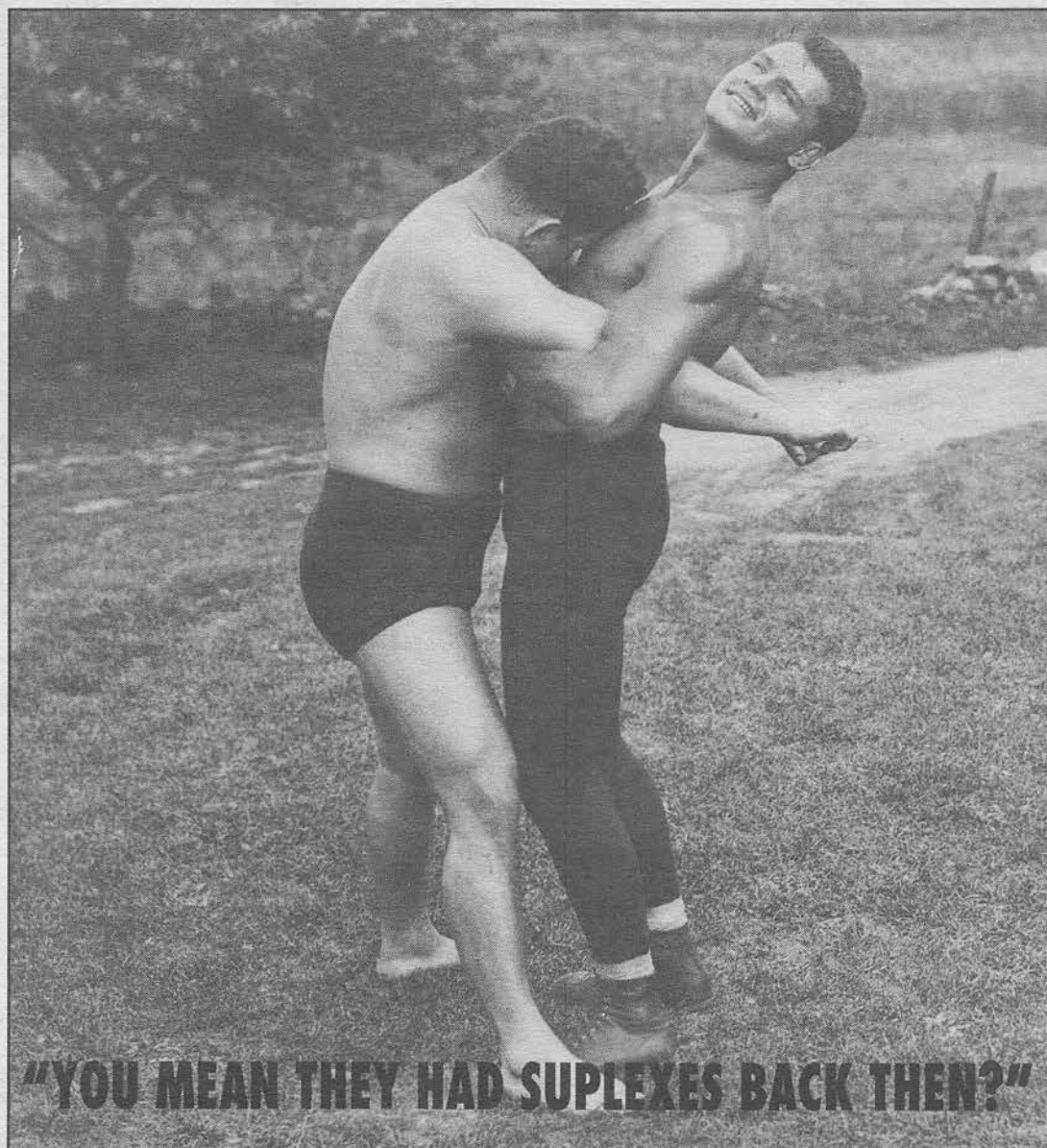
### WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: THE SMOKIN' GUNNS

(January 23, 1995; from Bob Holly and The Kid; Palmetto, FL)



# BLAST FROM THE PAST

## This Month In Wrestling History



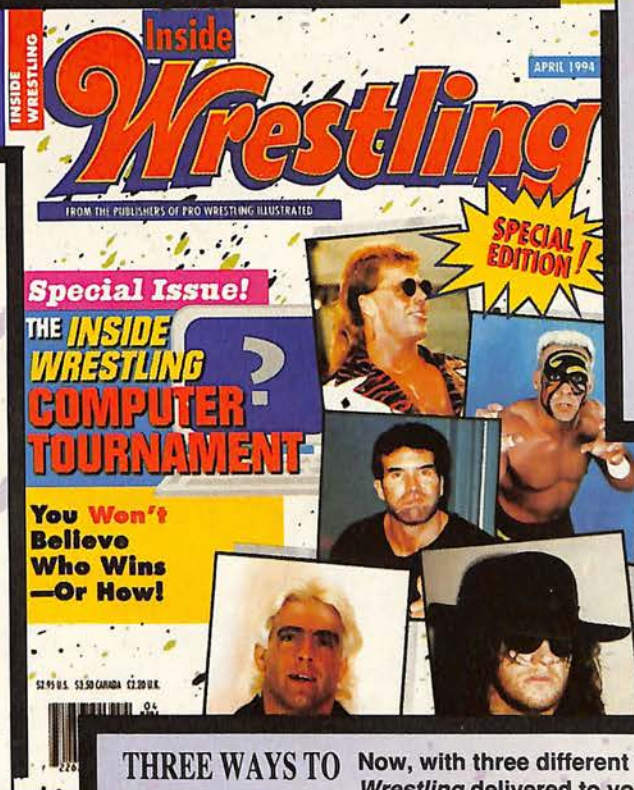
### **SANDOR SZABO vs. SPARRING PARTNER** **April 1934**

Seems like a strange way to train for a big match, but Sandor Szabo was never accused of not knowing what he was doing. Szabo was practicing one of the many variations of his famous suplex, hoping he would get a chance to use it in an upcoming match with Jim Londos. Sandor was one of the best wrestlers of the 1930s and '40s. He won his only NWA World title in 1941, when he beat Bronko Nagurski.



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